

IOWA BIRD LIFE

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Snowy Owls in Iowa, winter 2013–2014

Paul Hertzel

During the winter season of 2013–2014, there were 54 reports of Snowy Owls in Iowa that came to the attention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU). Of these 54 reports, at least 38 were very likely unique individuals (Table 1). Sixteen of the reports were thought to be either repeated reports from the 38 unique individuals, or else were reports that were unsubstantiated by adequate descriptions, photos or subsequent findings.

Snowy Owls that find their way to Iowa are nomadic and rarely stay in one location for more than a few days (Figure 1). So, in tracking these visitors it is very helpful to have details, especially photographic details to help distinguish individuals and avoid counting errors. Twenty-two of the 38 believed to be distinct individuals were photographed. In some cases these photographs documented repeated sightings of the same individual and in many cases enabled those birds to be sexed or aged.

Of 20 birds sexed, 16 were judged to be females and 4 were judged to be males. Of 24 birds aged, 18 were judged to be juveniles and 6 were judged to be adults. Unlike the distributions of the last two seasons, most birds were found in eastern or central Iowa. Only four records (11% of the total) were from the western third of the state.

Ordinarily, a season count of 38 Snowy Owls would be considered an irruption. However, this particular count does not fit well with any pattern of occurrence. Historically, reports to the IOU have averaged less than 10 birds annually, with irruptions involving higher counts detected irregularly, once or twice per decade. The spacing of these irrup-

tions is more clearly documented north of Iowa, occurring about every 5 or 6 years. Kent and Dinsmore (1996) speculated that ripples of minor irruptions might not be felt at the latitude of Iowa, making the detection of a consistent pattern difficult.

Iowa has now experienced two consecutive winters of 30 or more Snowy Owls, and these followed a major irruption of more than 100 individuals during the winter of 2011–12 (Hertzel and Dinsmore 2012). This sequence is difficult to place into context. The irruption of 2011–12 was continent-wide, and the count of 38 this past season might reflect



Figure 1. Snowy Owl s of Ventura, Cerro Gordo, 7 February 2014. Photograph by Mark Huling, Ventura, IA.

an event that dominated the eastern half of North America. But the count of 31 in the season between is an anomaly. It is possible that the experience of 2011-12 has taught Iowans how to better find these birds, and the ability to immediately share data by phone and Internet has improved the number and quality of reports. The next few seasons should help confirm if this is a new pattern. Thanks to the many people who reported their sightings and provided details and photos.

LITERATURE CITED

Hertzel P., and S. J. Dinsmore. 2012. A major irruption of Snowy Owls into Iowa, winter 2011-12. *Iowa Bird Life* 82:85-89.

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Table 1. Summary of Snowy Owls reported in Iowa, winter 2013-14. A “†” indicates the bird was photographed.

Record	Date(s)	County	Location	Age	Sex	Observer(s)
1	20 Nov 2013	Allamakee	3 mi. NE of Lansing	Juv	F	†Zachary Davis
2	1 Dec 2013	Humboldt	Near Ottosen	Juv	F	†Jacob Newton
3	4 Dec 2013	Kossuth	E of Union Slough NWR	Juv	F	†Tonya Gray
4	8 Dec 2013	Story	E of Story City			Gaylan Crim, †Stephen J. Dinsmore
5	8 Dec 2013	Dubuque	Dubuque airport			Michael Menon
6	11 Dec 2013- 12 Feb 2014	Polk	NW of Ankeny	Juv	F	Ray Cummins, Molly McGovern, Danny Akers
7	12 Dec 2013	Fremont	4 mi. S of Farragut		M	Keith Dyche
8	14 Dec 2013	Dickinson	West Okoboji L.			Lee Schoenewe
9	15-16 Dec 2013	Polk	S of Grimes	Juv	M	†Jay Gilliam
10	16 Dec 2013	Lee	Pool 19 off Montrose	Juv	F	†Stephen J. Dinsmore
11	16 Dec 2013 ¹	Lee	Pool 19 off Montrose	Juv	F	†Stephen J. Dinsmore
12	17 Dec 2013- 3 Jan 2014	Franklin	S of Coulter	Juv		Brad Mohr fide Kevin Murphy
13	17 Dec 2013	Johnson	N of Hills	Ad		Matt Fisher fide Stephen J. Dinsmore
14	25 Dec 2013	Des Moines	3 mi E of Burlington	Juv	F	†Keri Mendenhall
15	26 Dec 2013	Allamakee	Near Postville			Ric Zarwell
16	1 Jan 2014 ²	Carroll	Near Deadham			Matt Wetrich

Record	Date(s)	County	Location	Age	Sex	Observer(s)
17	10 Jan-late Feb 2014	Hancock/ Kossuth	N of Wesley	Juv	F	†Paul Huling, †Mark Huling, Bruce McKee
18	7-19 Jan 2014	Worth	W of St Ansgar	Juv	F	†Leman Northway, †Paul Hertzfel
19	12 Jan 2014	Polk	along I-35 N of Elkhart	Ad	F	Stephen J. Dinsmore
20	mid-Jan 2014	Jasper	4 mi N of Lynnville	Juv	F	†Keith Ford
21	21 Jan 2014	Cerro Gordo	s side of Union Hills	Juv		Kevin Murphy
22	19 Jan	Marshall	E of jct of Hwy 65 and CR E-23	Ad		Carl Kurtz
23	21 Jan 2014	Clarke	2 miles E of Weldon	Ad	F	†Michael Miller <i>fide</i> Stephen J. Dinsmore
24	25 Jan 2014	Benton	1.5 mi. SE of Dysart			Tommy Stone
25	26 Jan 2014	Wright	NW of Big Wall L	Ad	F	†Stephen J. Dinsmore
26	30 Jan 2014	Decatur	Exact location unknown			<i>fide</i> Missy Smith
27	30 Jan 2014 ²	Marshall	Exact location unknown			Diane Hall
28	31 Jan 2014	Pottawat- tamie				Tina Popson
29	1 Feb 2014	Cerro Gordo	Near Ventura	Juv	F	†Mark Huling
30	7 Feb 2014	Kossuth	N of Wesley			Rita Goranson, †Bruce McKee
31	7 Feb-14 Mar 2014	Cerro Gordo	S of Ventura	Juv	M	†Mark Huling, Curt Nelson, †Kevin Murphy
32	7 Feb 2014	Madison	1 mi E of Winterset	Juv	F	†Anna MacDonald
33	24 Feb-15 Mar 2014	Grundy	3 mi S of Grundy Center	Juv	F	Lyle Neher, †Tom Schilke, Ann Sloth
34	26 Feb 2014	Clinton	Jct of I 90thSt/E63/Y46			Jessica Wagner
35	3 Mar 2014	Grundy	near Wellsburg	Ad	F	†Kendra Bunger <i>fide</i> Stephen Dinsmore
36	4 Mar 2014	Hancock	NW of Eagle Lake			†Mark Huling
37	14 Mar 2014 ³	Cerro Gordo	S of Ventura	Juv	M	†Bruce McKee
38	10 Apr 2014 ²	Wright	near Eagle Grove	Juv		†Tim Smith <i>fide</i> Stephen J. Dinsmore

¹This was a second bird at this location, seen simultaneously with #10.

²Bird was picked up dead.

³Two birds in view at once; second bird was almost certainly record number 31 in table.

Field Reports—Spring 2014

Tyler M. Harms



Tyler M. Harms

WEATHER

Unlike the last spring, which was cool and unusually wet, spring 2014 was cool and dry. This was a welcome relief for the birds and birders alike. Spring started both cooler and drier than the previous spring with March temperatures 6.6 degrees below normal and precipitation 0.83 inches below normal, making March 2014 the 22nd coldest and 11th driest in 141 years of records. The extremely cool temperatures in March did not entice many of the early migrants to arrive in Iowa any earlier than normal. Elkader and Decorah recorded -24 degrees Fahrenheit on 3 March and several other areas across the state recorded temperatures nearly 30 degrees below normal. Much of the precipitation fell in two events at the beginning and end of March resulting in somewhat dry conditions for most of the month. Despite the unseasonably cool temperatures and lack of precipitation, spring was not completely hiding with temperatures near 70 degrees Fahrenheit for at least five days during the month, mostly in southern Iowa.

April broke the dry spell with precipitation averaging 4.83 inches, 1.32 inches above normal. However, cool conditions continued with temperatures averaging 1.7 degrees below normal. After a return to winter-like conditions in early April, the state experienced its most significant precipitation event since May 2013 with rainfall totals of more than 5 inches along a line from south-central to northeast Iowa. This quickly filled many marshes and provided a pleasant, yet cool greeting to migrating waterbirds. Snow returned in late April with 2 inches or more reported in several locations across northern Iowa. April ended as the 43rd coolest and 12th wettest in 141 years of records.

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Temperatures warmed to normal in May sparking the beginning of spring. However, precipitation returned to below normal with recorded amounts 1.60 inches below average across the state. The beginning of May brought below normal temperatures but was quickly followed by a warm front on 7-8 May with temperatures rising above 90 degrees Fahrenheit in southwestern Iowa. This likely pushed many migrants into the state. The warm-up was short-lived with temperatures dropping below normal once again, with a record of 24 degrees Fahrenheit in Spencer on 16 May. Only once has a cooler temperature been recorded in Iowa so late in the season, in Sanborn in 1963. Despite relatively frequent

rainfall events across much of the state, some areas recorded their driest month in nearly 40 years. Keosauqua received only 0.72 inches of precipitation, making it the driest May in 127 years! Ironically, despite experiencing devastating flooding in June, Sibley and Rock Rapids recorded their driest May since 1963. According to State Climatologist Henry Hillaker, this spring was rather uneventful compared to the previous two springs.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Relatively normal temperatures and precipitation provided favorable conditions for migrants throughout much of the spring season and resulted in few early arrivals of migrants unlike the previous two spring seasons. A gradual warm-up in May sparked leaf-out and vegetative growth resulting in favorable conditions for Neotropical migrants across much of the state. And these species certainly took advantage of these conditions and were much more abundant this spring. Notably, reports of Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Golden-winged warblers were far more numerous than previous years. Reports of three or more of each of these species at a single site were frequent throughout early to mid-May when many birders would be happy to see more than one of any of these species at a single site. Indeed, some birders commented that this was a particularly good year for Golden-winged Warblers. However, despite the abundance of Neotropical migrants throughout early May, few lingered late in the season.

Above-average precipitation in April filled many of the wetlands across the state and frequent rains throughout May maintained wet conditions in many of the more permanent wetlands. Although not as wet as last year, these conditions were well received by migrant waterbirds and shorebirds with many arriving in the state on schedule. Indeed, after the drought of the previous summer, many wetlands attained excellent condition with a nice mix of water and emergent vegetation. These favorable conditions caused many migrant waterbirds to stay later into spring than last year. For example, the last report of Northern Shoveler and Green-winged Teal was on 30 May and 31 May, respectively, both more than 1 week later than last year.

Lastly, the relatively normal temperature and precipitation further confirmed that the recent population decline of Ring-necked Pheasants is largely due to spring weather conditions. Reports of this species were more numerous this spring compared to previous years and, as I write this report, the Iowa DNR reports an average 150% increase in Ring-necked Pheasant numbers based on their annual August Roadside Count. Perhaps we will begin to see a rebound of this species in Iowa?

UNUSUAL SPECIES

As expected from the near normal weather conditions, this was not a particularly eventful year for rarities. Similar to last year however, reports of western vagrants such as Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting were prevalent. Notable rarities this spring included the fifth record of Mottled Duck, first record of Fish Crow in more than 10 years, and second record of Brambling. Other casual or accidental species reported this spring included Ruff, Black-legged Kittiwake, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Burrowing Owl, Painted Bunting, and Hooded Oriole.

The list of species whose first arrival was within the range of the three earliest dates included Alder Flycatcher, House Wren, Connecticut Warbler, and Yellow Warbler. Northern Shrike was the only species that lingered into the range of the three latest dates in spring.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **alt** = alternate (plumage), **A** = area, **BBS** = breeding bird survey, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **se half** = diagonal se half, **SF** = state forest, **SL** = sewage lagoons, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area, **yg** = young.

Key to maps: shading = species reported in county. In most cases, the species was probably nesting in the county although evidence was presented only in a few cases.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK: One on 10 May in *Spencer Clay* (*LAS-photo).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Other than a report of 50,000 on 12 Mar at Snyder Bend Woodbury (GLV), peak numbers of this species were comparable to last year with reports of 6000 on 10 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE), 5377 on 25 Mar at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (USFWS fide MCK), and 2084 on 20 Mar at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (USFWS fide MCK). A single bird lingered at Cone M *Louisa* until 29 May (LGR).

Snow Goose: A single bird overwintered at Ada Hayden P *Story* and was last observed 14 Mar (WO). Migration peaked in mid-Mar with 150,000 on 12 Mar at Snyder Bend Woodbury (GLV), 20,000 on 11 Mar in *Montgomery* (RIA/PHA), and 6500 on 9 Mar at Cottonwood RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE) and continued through late Mar with reports of 6500 on 29 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG) and 4800 on 23 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). The last bird was observed 18 May at Storm L *Buena Vista* (JG).

Ross's Goose: The peak of 550 was observed 29 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose*

(JG). Reports of 1-47 came from 10 other counties the last observed 14 May at Snake Creek M *Greene* (SJD).

Cackling Goose: Similar to Snow Goose, migration peaked in mid-Mar with 253 on 20 Mar in *Jackson* (KMC), 197 on 15 Mar in *Louisa* (KMc), and 150 on 13 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). Last: 1 on 2 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Canada Goose: 50,000 were observed amongst light goose flocks on 12 Mar at Snyder Bend Woodbury (GLV). PH noted a migratory flock of 1250 on 14 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo*.

Mute Swan: All: 2 on 17 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (JF, CRE), 1 on 23 Mar at Princeton M *Scott* (TGS), 2 on 7 Apr on a farm pond in *Adair* (POR), 2 on 29 Apr at Harrier M *Boone* (DTh), and 2 on 9 May in *Johnson* (JLF).

Trumpeter Swan: Similar to last year, reports of this species occurred from central Iowa east to the Mississippi River with a high count of 108 at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (SJD). The westernmost report was 2 on 10 May at Jones Pond *Monona* (GLV) and DTh noted nesting activity on 8 May at Snake Creek M *Greene*.



Blue-winged Teal, Jester P, Polk, 18 April 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Bufflehead, Polk, 7 April 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

Tundra Swan: Only 3 reports: 2 on 8 Mar at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (SJD), 2 on 18 Mar at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP), and 2 on 5 Apr at Twin Lakes *Hancock* (JG). *an-Han* Surprisingly, no reports of this species came from Pool 9, Mississippi R, a usual migration stopover for this species.

Wood Duck: First: 1 on 9 Mar at Cottonwood RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE). Most: 10 on 15 Mar along the Mississippi R *Louisa* (KMc).

Gadwall: Migration of this species started on 11 Mar with 16 at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (RLC) and peaked with 610 on 20 Apr at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). The last birds were observed 19 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

American Wigeon: First: 3 on 8 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Most: 22 on 1 Apr at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Last: 1 on 20 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

American Black Duck: Only 3 reports: 2 on 18 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC), 1 on 21 Mar in *Winnebago* (ALD), and 1 on 12 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Mallard: Migration peaked in late Mar with 7700 on 22 Mar at Jester P, Saylorville

Res *Polk* (AB) and 7463 on 25 Mar at Union Sl NWR (USFWS fide MCK).

MOTTLED DUCK: Iowa's fifth record was a male on 14 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (*SJD-photos, TMH-details).

Blue-winged Teal: The first were observed 15 Mar in *Louisa* (KMc) and the peak of 952 on 2 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (AB).

Cinnamon Teal: A single bird was observed by many from 11-17 Apr at Hoosier Creek *Johnson*. Singles were also reported on 27 Mar at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy), 3 Apr at Pony Creek P *Mills* (KDy), and 21 Apr at Badger L *Monona* (GLV).

Northern Shoveler: First: 5 on 11 Mar at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (RLC). Most: 700 on 15 Apr at Lake Colchester Warren (JG) and 389 on 30 Apr at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (USFWS fide MCK). Last: 1 on 30 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Northern Pintail: Migration peaked in mid-Mar with 2000 at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (JG) and 1100 at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE), both on 15 Mar, and continued through 1 Apr with 250 at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). The last was observed 31 May at Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Green-winged Teal: AB reported the peak of 1074 30 Mar at Jester Park, Say-

lorville Res *Polk*. The last birds seen this spring were 31 May at Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Canvasback: Peak numbers occurred along the Mississippi R with 11,000 reported 14 Mar at Pool 19 *Lee* (RLC) and 6325 reported 20 Mar in *Lee* (KMc). Away from the Mississippi, 900 was reported 18 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC) and 500 on 29 Mar at Polk City WA *Polk* (JB). Two birds were still lingering on 31 May at Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Redhead: Peak numbers came from central Iowa with 250 reported 30 Mar and 144 on 28 Mar, both at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE, RLC). The last birds were observed 31 May Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Ring-necked Duck: The most observed this spring was 6500 on 27 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), far more than the peak of 1303 reported last year. Other high counts included 1880 on 18 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC) and 400 on 24 Mar at Lake Darling SP *Washington* (CRE). Along with other divers, the last bird was observed 31 May at Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Greater Scaup: All: 1 on 16 Mar at Pool 13, Mississippi R *Clinton* (CRE), 34 on 20 Mar in *Clinton* (KMc), 14 on 28 Mar at Lakeview Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), 5 on 29 Mar at Polk City WA *Polk* (JB), 4 on 2 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* (BSc), and 2 on 14 May at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* (LAS).

Lesser Scaup: Migration appeared to start 14 Mar with 2200 at Pool 19, Mississippi R *Lee* (RLC), peaked on 20 Mar with 5710 in *Clinton* (KMc), and continued through 5 Apr with 4860 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB). The last birds were observed on 29 May at Sand L *Johnson* (MHB).

Surf Scoter: Single females were reported 9 May at the Jewell SL *Hamilton* (SJD) and 14 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS).

White-winged Scoter: All: A single bird on 1 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 1-2 birds were observed 23 Mar – 16 Apr in Bettendorf *Scott* (TGS).

Black Scoter: Three birds were observed 6-10 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TSS).

Long-tailed Duck: All: A single bird was seen 23-27 Apr at Swan L *Johnson* (m.ob.), 1 on 28 Apr at Country Club L *Dallas* (RIA/PHA), and 1 on 29 Apr at the Jewell SL *Hamilton* (SJD, TMH).

Bufflehead: Peak of 44 observed 14 Mar at Pool 19, Mississippi R *Lee* (RLC) was far fewer than the peak reported last year. The last bird was observed 16 May at Sand L *Johnson* (MHB).

Common Goldeneye: Most: 1356 on 20 Mar in *Clinton* (KMc). Last: 1 on 17 Apr at Brushy Creek SRA *Webster* (POR).

Hooded Merganser: Ten birds were the first on 10 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (TMH) with a peak of 190 on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). A female with 11 yg was last reported on 31 May at Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Common Merganser: Peak numbers came from large water bodies with 3740 observed on 23 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), 2500 on 15 Mar at Pool 19, Mississippi R *Lee* (KMc), and 2400 on 29 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG). A single male was the last on 25 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD).

Red-breasted Merganser: The peak of 600 was observed 29 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG). Sixteen or less were reported in 9 other counties.

Ruddy Duck: Migration peaked at Saylorville Res *Polk* in mid-Apr with 650 at the dam on 14 Apr (JG), 360 on 7 Apr (RLC), and 201 on 6 Apr (BE). The peak count away from central Iowa was 120 on 22 Apr at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK)

and the last bird was observed 31 May at Crystal Hills WA *Hancock* (RGo).

Northern Bobwhite: All: 2 on 12 Apr near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 1 on 12 Apr at Errington M *Polk* (AB, JG), and 2 on 26 Apr at Swan L *Johnson* (MHB).

Gray Partridge: Twelve birds were reported 6 Mar in *Hamilton* (SJD). Reports of 1-3 birds came from 13 additional counties in the central part of the state.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Only 3 reports: 40 on 10 Mar at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV), 3 on 1 Apr at Errington M *Polk* (RLC), and 1 on 5 Apr at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Three reports of 11-13 birds at the Kellerton lek *Ringgold* on 29-30 Mar and 29 Apr (DTh, RIA/PHA, JWR, JLF).

Wild Turkey: All: 5 on 18 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC) and 6 on 28 Mar at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Red-throated Loon: A single basic ad was observed on 29 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD, TMH, WO-photo).

Common Loon: Nine birds were first observed 29 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG), which was also the high count. Reports of 1-8 birds came from throughout central and eastern Iowa with the last birds observed 28 May at Sand L WA *Marshall* (MP).

Pied-billed Grebe: The first bird was observed 27 Mar in the Middle Racoon R *Dallas* (RLC) and the most was 42 on 14 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (AB).

Horned Grebe: The first birds were observed later than usual on 31 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TNJ). The peak was 22 on 2 May at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TNJ) and the last was observed 9 May at the Alden SL *Hardin* (MP).

Red-necked Grebe: A typical spring for this species with 1-2 birds reported from six counties, the first on 2 Apr at the

Goldfield SL *Wright* (POR) and the last on 22 May at Brushy Creek SRA *Webster* (SJD).

Eared Grebe: Reports of 1-2 birds from 9 counties across the state with the first on 2 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and the last on 18 May at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (JG).

Western Grebe: All: 2 from 16-22 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDY), and 1 on 29 May at Swan L SP *Carroll* (RIA/PHA, JLF).

***Aechmophorus* sp:** A single bird was seen at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (*JB, m.ob.) and the bird was not positively identified as either a Clark's or Western Grebe.

Double-crested Cormorant: The first birds arrived in Iowa on 14 Mar along Sullivan Sl Road *Des Moines* (RLC) and migration peaked in mid-Apr with 500 on 13 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (MHB) and 320 on 17 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

American White Pelican: The high count was 850 on 14 Mar at Pool 19, Mississippi R *Lee* (RLC) followed by 656 on 15 Mar in *Muscatine* (KMc). Away from the Mississippi R, 500 was reported 12 Apr at Swan L SP *Carroll* (MT).

American Bittern: All: 1 on 1 May at Errington M *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 2 May at Cone M *Louisa* (JF), 2 on 14 May at Harrier M *Boone* (TMH), and 1 on 15 May at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

Least Bittern: All: 1-2 on 27 May (DTh, JB, RIA/PHA) and 2 on 29 May (JLF) at Brenton Sl *Dallas*.

Great Blue Heron: Reported in 11 counties with the high of 40 reported on 29 May at Cone M *Louisa* (LGR).

Great Egret: First: 3 on 3 Apr at Polk City WA *Polk* (DTh). The most was 9 on 27 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

Snowy Egret: Only 3 reports: 1 on 27 Mar near Ida Grove *Ida* (*PE), 1 on 4 Apr in Ottumwa *Wapello* (TNJ), and 2 on 24 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDY).



Osprey, Polk, 31 March 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

Cattle Egret: First 2 were reported 4 May southwest of Odgen *Boone* (Matthew Garrick fide SJD). Reports of 1-5 from 8 other counties with the last observed 30 May at the Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* (GLV).

Green Heron: Reports of 1-3 from 9 counties with the first on 22 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First was reported on 17 Apr near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP) with 1-2 reported from 6 additional counties.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: 1 from 29 Apr-7 May in Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABI), 1 on 23, 26 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV, POR), and 1 on 26 May in *Jasper* (SJD).

White-faced Ibis: Several reports of this species again this year with the first on 18 Apr at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS), peak of 41 on 25 Apr at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDY), and last on 31 May at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS).

Plegadis species: A single bird was observed 18 Apr at Big Wall L *Wright* (Brenna Towery fide ALD).

Turkey Vulture: First: 1 on 12 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB). Most: 7 on 11 May over the Gerety's yard *Dallas* (KG).

Osprey: Mostly singles reported in 10 counties with the first report of an occupied nest on 28 Mar at Hallett's Quarry *Polk* (JG) and the peak of 4 on 20 Apr at Cottonwood RA, Saylorsville Res *Polk* (JHW).

Mississippi Kite: Report of 2 birds on 17 May in Des Moines *Polk* (PJW) and 3 birds, two of which were observed copulating, in Ottumwa *Wapello* (JLF, JWR), both regular locations for this species. Additional reports of 1 on 8 May in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 9 May at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (TGS), and 1 on 21 May at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Bald Eagle: Reported in 9 counties east of *Polk* with a peak of 292 on 23 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

Northern Harrier: First: 1 on 7 Mar in *Pocahontas* (DCH). Last: 1 on 14 May at Dugout Creek *Dickinson* (LAS).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Singles reported on 10 Mar at Rice L *Winnebago* (ALD), 15 Mar in *Clinton* (KMc), 9 Apr in *Grimes Polk* (JB), 26 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 26 Apr at Starr's Cave *Des Moines* (WWH).

Cooper's Hawk: Singles reported on 11-12 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KMc), 28



Swainson's Hawk, Dunbar Slough, Greene, 22 April 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

Apr at Saylorville WA Dallas (RLC), 6 May in Cedar Rapids Linn (WWH), and 28 May in Algona Kossuth (MCK).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Scattered reports in eastern and central Iowa with the first on 9 Mar at Red Rock Res Marion (AB) and the last, a pair, on 28 May at McCoy WA Boone (DCH).

Broad-winged Hawk: The first of 3 reported 19 Apr in Forest City Winnebago (JB). Migration peaked on 26 Apr with 18 in Mitchell (PH) and the last was observed 27 May in Stone SP Woodbury (GLV).

Swainson's Hawk: Reported in 11 counties statewide, far fewer than the 26 counties last year. The first was 8 Apr at Neal Smith NWR (KVS) and last was 18 May at Willow Sl Mills (JB).

Red-tailed Hawk: Most: 14 on 20 Mar in Jackson (KMc).

Rough-legged Hawk: Reports of 1-2 birds from 8 counties with the last on 31 Mar at the Twin Lakes Area Hancock (ALD).

Golden Eagle: All: 1 on 10 Mar at Rice L Winnebago (ALD), an ad and juv on 15 Mar at L Icaria Adams (POR), 1 on 22 Mar at

Kindlespire P Clay (LAS), 1 juv on 29 Mar in Winnebago (ALD), and 1 on 5 Apr in Polk (AB).

King Rail: One on 31 May at Big Wall L Wright was the only report (*SJD-photo).

Virginia Rail: Only 3 reports: 2 on 2 May in Wright (POR), 2 on 4 May at River-ton WA Fremont (KDy), and 1 on 4 May at Coulter M Franklin (MP).

Sora: First: 1 on 29 Apr at the Iowa State University Kelley Farm Boone (WO). Most: 11 on 14 May at Big Creek SP Polk (TMH). Last: 1 visiting a bird feeder from 18-24 May in Bode Humboldt (Orlys and Andrew Maasen fide JN).

Common Gallinule: All: 1 on 4 May at Bays Branch WA Guthrie (SJD), 8 on 26 May at the Upper Mississippi R NWR, Green Island Jackson (TGS), and 2 on 31 May at Big Wall L Wright (SJD).

American Coot: The first bird was observed 14 Mar at Trumpeter M Lee (RLC) and the most of 150 was observed 4 Apr at Anderson L Hamilton (TMH).

Sandhill Crane: Reports of this species are increasing in spring with 41 reports from 20 counties this year. The first was observed 10 Mar at Cone M Louisa (CRE) and the most of 32 on 20 Mar at Cone M Louisa (BSc).

American Avocet: The first birds were reported 13 Apr at Cedar L Linn (JF) and the high of 28 was reported 28 Apr at Jester P, Saylorville Res Polk (DTh). The last bird was reported 28 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JF).

Black-necked Stilt: Ten reports from around the state with the first on 20 Apr at Hawkeye WA Johnson (TGS) and last on 23 May at Sandhill L Woodbury (GLV).

Black-bellied Plover: Nearly all reports came from eastern or southwestern Iowa with the first on 21 Apr at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JF) and the high of 8 on 24

May in Mills (RLC). Outside these areas, 3 were reported 24 May in *Story* (SJD) which, along with the above report, were the last seen this spring.

American Golden-Plover: The high count was 227 on 4 May in *Greene* (SJD) with the first observed on 9 Apr in *Cerro Gordo* (ALD) and the last on 14 May in *Greene* (TMH).

Semipalmated Plover: Reported in 8 counties around the state with the first on 24 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) and last on 19 May at Sand L *Johnson* (MHB).

Piping Plover: Two banded birds were the first to arrive this spring on 18 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Reports of 1-3 birds in *Page*, *Polk*, and *Pottawattamie* with the last birds tending a nest on 17 May at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD).

Killdeer: The first bird was observed 11 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB) with the peak of 25 observed 15 Mar in *Louisa* (KMc).

Spotted Sandpiper: First: 1 on 18 Apr at Sand L *Johnson* (MHB). Last: 1 on 28 May in Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABl).

Solitary Sandpiper: The first was reported 24 Apr at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (JB) and the last on 8 May at Sand L *Johnson* (MHB).

Greater Yellowlegs: Only 8 reports with the first on 22 Mar at Twelve Mile L *Union* (JG) and the last on 14 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (TMH).

Willet: Similar to last year, Reported in 10 counties with the first 24 reported 24 Apr at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy) and the high of 47 on 28 Apr at Polk City WA *Polk* (RIA/PHA). The last bird was observed 17 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Only 8 reports, the first on 31 Mar at the Twin Lakes Area *Hancock* (ALD) and last 23 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).



American Golden-Plover, Greene, 4 May 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Upland Sandpiper: First: 1 on 15 Apr in *Benton* (JF).

Hudsonian Godwit: The first bird was reported 13 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) with the peak of migration occurring mid-May with 46 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and 27 in *Mills* (KDy), both on 12 May. The last birds were observed 23 May at Cone M *Louisa* (JWR).

Marbled Godwit: Migration of this species matched Hudsonians with the first on 16 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) and peak of 16 on 16 May at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD). A single bird was lingering at Otter Creek M *Tama* on 21 May (SJD).

Ruddy Turnstone: Reported in 9 counties statewide with the first on 29 Apr at Cherry Glen Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh) and last on 26 May at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

RUFF: A single female was observed 12 Apr at Coralville Res *Johnson* (*JF).

Stilt Sandpiper: More reports than last year with the first on 9 May at Meier WA *Hardin* (MP), high of 135 on 16 May at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD), and last on 17 May at Riverton WA *Fremont* (JB).

Sanderling: First: 4 on 3 May at Oak



Sanderling, Saylorville Res, Polk, 14 May 2014. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



White-rumped Sandpiper, Terry Trueblood Rec Area, Johnson, 28 May 2014. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

Grove Access, Saylorville Res Polk (AB). Last: 3 on 26 May at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res Polk (JG).

Dunlin: First: 1 on 15 Apr at Coralville Res Johnson (CRE). Most: 69 on 26 May at Runnells WA Marion (SJD). Last: In addition to the high count, a single bird was also observed 26 May at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res Polk (JG).

Baird's Sandpiper: Reported in 9 counties mostly in central Iowa with the first on 30 Mar at Jester P, Saylorville Res Polk (AB) and last on 22 May at Sand L Johnson (MHB).

Least Sandpiper: The first bird was observed 5 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (JB) with the peak of migration on 10 May with 300 reported at Twin View Heights, Coralville L Johnson (CRE). The last were observed 30 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Reported in 9 counties with the first on 1 May in *Cerro Gordo* (ALD) and last on 28 May at Sand L Johnson (MHB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Thirteen reports mostly from central Iowa with the exception of 4 on 31 Mar at Cardinal M Win-

neshiek (LR) and 300 on 28 Apr at Hawkeye WA Johnson (CRE), which was also the high count. The first birds were observed 22 Mar along the Iowa R Corridor Iowa (BSc) and the last on 19 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First: 3 on 1 Apr at Ada Hayden P Story (WO). Most: 150 on 10 May at Twin View Heights, Coralville L Johnson (CRE). Last: 35 on 28 May at Sand L Johnson (MHB).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 on 19 Apr at Princeton WA Scott (DR). Most: 92 on 12 May at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD). Last: 2 on 19 May at Sand L Johnson (MHB).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 1 Apr at Jester P, Saylorville Res Polk (RLC) and last on 14 May at Dunbar Sl Greene (TMH).

Wilson's Snipe: Migration began on 14 Mar with a single bird at Squaw Creek P Linn (BSc), peaked on 6 Apr with 98 at Jester P, Saylorville Res Polk (AB), and ended 6 May with the last bird at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

American Woodcock: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Waterworks Prairie P Johnson (LGR). Ten birds were observed on an Iowa Young



Bonaparte's Gull, Swan Lake P, Carroll, 14 May 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Mourning Doves, Polk, 19 May 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

Birders field trip to Waterworks Prairie P Johnson on 28 Mar (WWH, BSc), an exciting life bird for several of the young birders.

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 1 on 25 Apr at Swan L Johnson (CRE). Most: 300 on 30 Apr at Riverton WA Fremont (JLF). Last: 6 on 16 May at Dunbar Sl Greene (JB).

Red-necked Phalarope: Six reports from 4 counties with the first on 16 May at Colo Ponds Story (MP) and last on 29 May at Riverton WA Fremont (JLF).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Two birds ventured through Iowa this spring: a first-year bird on 12 Apr at Gray's Lake P Polk (*MHB-photo) and an adult on 16-18 May at Red Rock Res Marion (*TGS-photo, *MP, *Brandon Caswell, RIA/PHA).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 9 on 30 Mar at Oak Grove Access, Saylorville Res Polk (RLC). Most: 65 on 20 Apr at Coralville L Johnson (CRE). Last: 7 on 14 May at Spirit L Dickinson (LAS).

Laughing Gull: Two birds were reported in Iowa this spring: the first on 28 May at Carter L Pottawattamie (*Brian Peterson) and the second on 31 May at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res Polk (AB, *JB).

Franklin's Gull: Fourteen reports mostly from central Iowa with the first on

14 Mar at Amana Lily Pond Iowa (JF), the high of 300 on 13 May at Moeckley Prairie Polk (RLC), and last on 30 May near Madrid Boone (DTh).

Ring-billed Gull: Ten reports with the high count of 16750 at Pool 19, Mississippi R Lee on 15 Mar (KMc).

CALIFORNIA GULL: A single adult was reported 2 May at Sandy Beach Johnson (*JF-photo).

Herring Gull: First: 72 on 14 Mar at Pool 19, Mississippi R Lee (RLC). Most: 1200 on 15 Mar along the Mississippi R Lee (KMc). Last: 310 on 23 Mar at Red Rock Res Marion (AB).

Thayer's Gull: All: 1 on 14 Mar at Pool 19, Mississippi R Lee (RLC), 1 on 15 Mar in Muscatine (KMc), 2 on 23 Mar in Bettendorf Scott (TGS), 1 from 27-30 Mar at Sandy Beach Johnson (JF), and 1 on 28 Mar at Oak Grove Access, Saylorville Res Polk (DTh).

Iceland Gull: A single bird was seen from 23-28 Mar at Sandy Beach Johnson (JF, *Brandon Caswell-photo).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Twelve reports from 5 counties in central and eastern Iowa with the first from 18-27 Mar at Cedar L Linn (JF) and the last from 29 Apr-2 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JF).

Glaucous Gull: All: 1-2 juv from 30 Mar-3 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, AB, RIA/PHA) and 1 on 4 Apr at Red Rock Res *Marion* (LGR).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Two birds were reported this spring: a first-year bird lingered from the winter season from 1-5 Mar at Cedar Lake *Linn* (*JF) and a first-year bird on 7 Apr at Sandy Beach *Johnson* (*JF-photo).

Least Tern: Away from the MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie*, a regular location for this species, 2 birds were reported 14 May at L LaShane *Decatur* (JRL) and 1 bird on 28 May at Waubonsie Access *Fremont* (JLF).

Caspian Tern: The peak of 194 was observed 10 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) with the first on 24 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* (JF) and last on 24 May at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Black Tern: First: 30 on 10 May south of Bjorkboda M *Boone* (DCH). Most: 400 on 16 May at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (JG).

Common Tern: All: 3 on 10 May at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 4 on 11 May at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD), 1-3 from 17-18 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, MP), 2 on 18 May at Storm L *Buena Vista* (JG), and 1 on 23 May at Lakeview Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

Forster's Tern: Migration peaked on 1 May with 14 near the outflow area of Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). The first were reported 21 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and the last on 18 May at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (DCH).

Eurasian Collared-dove: Reported in 6 counties this spring including *Kossuth*, *Muscatine*, *Palo Alto*, *Poweshiek*, *Warren*, and *Webster* (ALD, KMc, AMJ, WWH).

White-winged Dove: Two birds were seen in Keith Dyche's yard *Page* from 19-21 Apr, a regular location for this species.

An additional bird was reported 30 Apr in Shenandoah *Page* (JLF).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Reported in 10 counties with the first on 12 May at Weise Sl *Muscatine* (CRE).

Black-billed Cuckoo: All: 1 on 24 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), 2 on 25 May at Croton Unit, Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE), 1 on 30 May at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (TMH), and 1 on 31 May at Hutson P *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Barn Owl: A single male was observed roosting in a pine tree on 10 May at Pierce Creek *Page* (KDY).

Eastern Screech-Owl: All: 1 on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KMc), 1 on 29 Apr at Badger Creek RA *Madison* (DTh), and 1 occupying a nest box on 14 May along the Winnebago R *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Great Horned Owl: Reported in 5 counties including three reports of confirmed breeding: a nest with young on 22 Apr at Rice L *Winnebago* (ALD), a nest with young on 26 Apr at Starr's Cave *Des Moines* (WWH), and fledged young on 31 May at Spring Run *Dickinson* (MHB).

Snowy Owl: There were six reports, two of which were almost certainly repeated sightings of birds found earlier. The other four were an adult female photographed 2 Mar near Wellsburg *Grundy* (Kendra Bunger *fide* SJD), a juvenile female photographed NW of Eagle L *Hancock* (Mark Huling), a juvenile male photographed 14 Mar south of Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (BM), and a juvenile bird picked up dead 10 Apr near Eagle Grove *Wright* (Tim Smith *fide* SJD). Thanks to PH for compiling these reports.

BURROWING OWL: A single bird was seen on 1 May at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant *Des Moines* (Judy Joyce and Chant Eicke-photo *fide* SJD).

Barred Owl: Only 3 reports: 2 on 5

Mar at Rice L *Winnebago* (ALD), 1 on 22 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB), and 2 on 22 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH).

Long-eared Owl: No reports.

Short-eared Owl: Only two reports: a single bird from 3-6 Apr at Rice L *Winnebago* (ALD) and a single bird on 8 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: No reports.

Common Nighthawk: The first bird was observed 3 May in Johnston *Polk* (TMH) with reports of only 1-3 birds from 4 additional counties.

Chuck-will's-widow: A total of 5 birds were heard on 16 May at Green Hollow WA *Fremont* (TGS).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Surprisingly, only two reports this spring: 1 on 1 May in Floyd (CJF) and 2 near the Luther Bridge Boone (WO).

Chimney Swift: The first two birds were observed flying over the marsh at Deere Dike on 23 Apr (DAS).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The first bird was observed 26 Apr in Mystic *Appanoose* (TNJ) and the high of 12 was observed 5 May in Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABL). Reports of 1-3 birds from 6 additional counties.

Belted Kingfisher: Reported in 8 counties with the first on 3 Mar at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (DTh).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Reported in 6 counties with a high of 8 on 3 Mar at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (DTh) and on 15 Mar at Odessa WA *Louisa* (KMc).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Reported in 9 counties with the first on 8 Mar in Mystic *Appanoose* (TNJ) and last on 8 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV).

Hairy Woodpecker: Two birds on 3 May in Brown's Woods *Polk* (JHW) was the only report.

Northern Flicker: Less numerous



American Kestrel, Warren, 1 April 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

than last year with 1-7 reported from only 3 counties.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1-2 reported in 11 counties with 5 on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KMc) being the high count.

American Kestrel: Only 3 reports: 6 on 15 Mar in *Des Moines* (KMc), 2 occupying a nest box from 30 Mar-31 May in the Gerety yard *Dallas* (KG), and 1 on 19 Apr at Bradgate WA *Humboldt* (ABL).

Merlin: Singles were reported in 5 counties with the first on 7 Mar in the Gerety yard *Dallas* (KG) and the last on 25 Apr at Neal Smith NWR (KVS).

Peregrine Falcon: Reported in 10 counties with the first on 14 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The first migrant arrived on 16 May at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (JG) and the last on 26 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Reported in 8 counties with the first 2 on 9 May at Brinton Timber *Washington* (CRE).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 1 at



Eastern Wood-Pewee, Lake Macbride SP, Johnson, 17 May 2014. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

Ledges SP Boone (TMH) and 1 at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE), both on 14 May. Last: 1 on 24 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP).

Acadian Flycatcher: First 3 birds seen on 9 May at Brinton Timber Washington (CRE). Up to 6 reported in 5 additional counties.

Alder Flycatcher: The first bird was seen 5 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF Lee (RIA/PHA), the second earliest record of this species in Iowa. Reported in 5 additional counties with the last on 30 May in Johnston Polk, a new yard bird for Denny Thompson.

Willow Flycatcher: Seven reports with the first on 18 May in Cedar Rapids Linn (WWH) and last 12 on 31 May at Spring Run Dickinson (MHB), the high count for this spring.

Least Flycatcher: First: 2 on 27 Apr at Ada Hayden P Story (WO). Most: 14 on 21 May at Fox Hills WA Wapello (CRE). Last: 1 on 28 May in Algona Kossuth (MCK).



Western Kingbird, Des Moines, Polk, 17 May 2014. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.

Eastern Phoebe: First on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP Muscatine (KMc).

SAY'S PHOEBE: A single bird was found on 15 Apr at Greenbelt L Black Hawk (*Connor Langan-photo).

Great Crested Flycatcher: First on 1 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE). The most observed was only 5 on 22 May at Cedar Rapids Linn (WWH).

Western Kingbird: Eight reports west of a line from Hamilton to Polk with the first observed 9 May in Des Moines Polk (JG), the site of a nesting pair last year. The birds were later observed occupying a nest in the area (JG). The last was observed on 31 May at Spring Run Dickinson (MHB).

Eastern Kingbird: First on 23 Apr at Albia Res Monroe (RLC).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Three birds reported this spring: 1 seen from 17-19 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA Johnson (JLF, CRE, RIA/PHA), 1 on 24 Apr at Sweet M Bremer (TGS), and 1 on 25 May at Otter Creek M Tama (TGS).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reported in 9 counties with only 3 reports north of US Highway 20: 1 on 2 Apr near Duncombe

Webster (ALD), 1 on 5 Apr in *Howard* (PH), and 1 on 2 May in *Wright* (POR).

Northern Shrike: First on 8 Mar at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). Singles reported from 5 additional counties with the last on 12 Apr at Big M *Butler* (TGS), the second latest date for this species.

White-eyed Vireo: The first birds arrived on 22 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (JWR). A single bird on 23 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF) and 2 observed building a nest from 25-26 May at Gull Point SP *Dickinson* (ET, LAS, MHB) were the northernmost reports.

Bell's Vireo: Reported in 9 counties mostly south of Highway 20 with the first on 7 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). The single report north of Highway 20 came on 11 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (DGE).

Yellow-throated Vireo: First was on 26 Apr at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Blue-headed Vireo: First migrants arrived in Iowa at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), both on 27 Apr. The last bird left Iowa by way of Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* on 24 May (MP).

Warbling Vireo: Only 9 reports of this common species with the first on 21 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (AB).

Philadelphia Vireo: Reported in 6 counties with the first on 10 May at Big Wall L *Wright* (ALD) and the last on 26 May at Oak Grove Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

Red-eyed Vireo: First: 3 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE) and 1 at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), both on 8 May. Most: 50 on 21 May at Fox Hills WA *Wapello* (CRE).

FISH CROW: A single bird on 20 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD-photo) represents the fourth accepted record of this species for Iowa and the first since 1995.

Horned Lark: Only 1 report: 20 on 15 Mar in *Louisa* (KMc).

Purple Martin: The first migrant, a male, arrived on 6 Apr near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP) with a peak of 8 on 10 May at Blue L *Monona* (GLV).

Tree Swallow: First arrived two weeks earlier than last year on 15 Mar at Princeton M *Scott* (DR). A report of 50 on 6 May at Manhattan P *Linn* (WWH) was the high count for spring.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Seven reports from 7 counties with the first on 15 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB) and the high of 40 on 6 May at Manhattan P *Linn* (WWH).

Bank Swallow: First: 2 on 27 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most and last: 18 on 14 May at Cherry Glen Access, Saylerville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Cliff Swallow: First on 16 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Barn Swallow: First on 15 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Black-capped Chickadee: Most: 47 on 20 Mar in *Jackson* (KMc).

Tufted Titmouse: All: 10 on 15 Mar in *Des Moines* (KMc), 17 on 20 Mar in *Jackson* (KMc), 2 on 23 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (WWH), 5 on 26 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (WWH), and 12 on 4 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reports of single birds from 7 counties north of Interstate 80 with the first on 11 Mar in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and the last on 14 May at Rice L *Winnebago* (ALD).

White-breasted Nuthatch: Most: 37 on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KMc).

Brown Creeper: Reported in 8 counties with the last on 10 May at Devine WA *Kossuth* (ALD).

Carolina Wren: A single bird on



Tufted Titmouse, Dallas, 29 March 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



Varied Thrush, Boone, 8 March 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

22 May at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MP) was the last and the northernmost record this spring.

Bewick's Wren: Birds returned to the Argyle Junkyard *Lee* with 1 seen 22 Apr (JWR) and 2 seen 29 Apr (JLF). A single bird was also observed 26 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (TNJ).

House Wren: The first bird arrived 6 Apr in Urbandale *Polk* (BE). This ties the second earliest record of this species in spring. A high of 20 was observed 18 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH).

Winter Wren: Reported in 10 counties with the last on 6 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Sedge Wren: First: 2 on 29 Apr at Red Feather Prairie, Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). Most: 12 on 26 May at McCoy WA *Boone* (DCH).

Marsh Wren: First: 2 on 3 May at Grundy County L *Grundy* (MP). Most: 14 on 31 May at Spring Run *Dickinson* (MHB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Reported in 5 counties with the first on 15 Mar in *Louisa* (KMc) and the last on 10 Apr at Wilowglen Nursery *Winneshie* (LZL).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A bit later than the Golden-crowned Kinglet, the first report was on 1 Apr at Jester Park, Say-

lorville Res *Polk* (RLC). The last migrant left Iowa on 23 May from Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First migrant arrived 12 Apr at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Eastern Bluebird: The first report of 17 came on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KMc), which was also the high count this spring.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: A single bird was found on 21 Mar at the Otter Creek Loop *Louisa* (*Gene Murray).

Townsend's solitaire: No reports.

Veery: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 11 May at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (JG) and the last on 25 May at Lake Hendricks *Howard* (PH).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All migrants reported in May in central and eastern Iowa with the first on 4 May at the Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (MP) and the last on 18 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH).

Swainson's Thrush: First on 31 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO-details), a record early date by more than two weeks. The high count was 50 on 4 May at the Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (MP) and the last was 17 May in *Poweshiek* (WWH).

Hermit Thrush: First: 1 on 15 Mar in

Cedar Rapids Linn (BSc). Most: 4 on 1 May at Pine Lake SP Hardin (MP). Last: 1 on 4 May at the Hampton Cemetery Franklin (MP).

Wood Thrush: First on 30 Apr at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE).

American Robin: Peak of 392 on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP Muscatine (KMc).

Varied Thrush: A single bird overwintered and continued to be seen from 1 Mar-5 Apr in Boone (Randy Anderson fide SJD, SJD-photo).

Gray Catbird: First: 1 at Badger Creek RA Madison (DTh) and 3 at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE), both on 29 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: First on 11 Apr near Fairfield Jefferson (DCP).

Northern Mockingbird: Reported in 5 counties south of Polk with the first on 28 Apr in Davis (TNJ) and the last on 29 May in Union (JRL).

American Pipit: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 15 Apr at Coralville L Johnson (CRE) and last on 10 May at Pintail Wetlands Hardin (MP).

Cedar Waxwing: A report of 1200 on 18 May in Mills (KDY) was the most seen this spring.

Lapland Longspur: Far fewer report than last year. First: 18 on 15 Mar in Louisa (KMc). Most: 350 on 5 Apr in Mitchell (PH). Last: 5 on 17 Apr near Ellsworth Hardin (ALD).

Smith's Longspur: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 6 Apr at Errington M Polk (RIA/PHA), high of 150 on 16 Apr at Errington M Polk (RLC), and last on 10 May at Dan Green Sl Clay (LAS), a record late date for this species.

Snow Bunting: Only 2 reports this spring: 2 on 3 Mar in Guthrie (DTh) and 27 on 7 Mar in Pocahontas (DCH).

Ovenbird: First on 29 Apr at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE) with the high of 14 on

2 May at the Lucas Unit of Stephens SF Lucas (DTh).

Worm-eating Warbler: All: 1 on 3 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP, POR), 1 on 5 May at Cedar L Linn (WWH), 1 on 6 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF Lee (JWR), and 1 on 12 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF Lee (CRE).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First on 12 Apr near Fairfield Jefferson (DCP). Northernmost reports on 10 May at Loess Hills SF Monona (GLV) and 14 May at Ledges SP Boone (TMH).

Northern Waterthrush: First arrived 20 Apr north of Iowa City Johnson (JLF). Reports of 5 at Upper Mississippi River NWR, Green Island Jackson and Soper's Mill Story (TMH), both on 5 May, were the high for this spring. The last passed through Iowa by way of Ada Hayden P Story on 26 May (WO).

Golden-winged Warbler: This species was more numerous this spring than previous years. Reported in 15 counties with the first on 6 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE) and last on 18 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP).

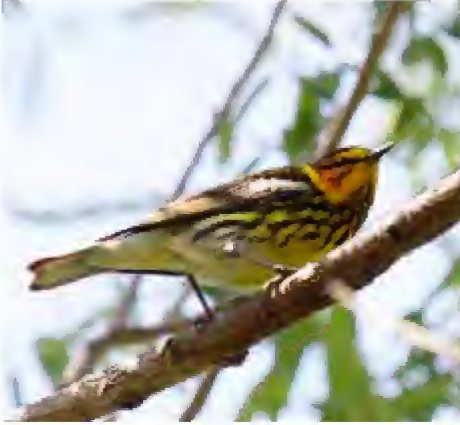
Blue-winged Warbler: First: 1 on 30 Apr at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE). Last: 1 on 17 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP).

Black-and-white Warbler: First on 24 Apr in Ankeny Polk (RLC).

Prothonotary Warbler: Reported in 8 counties east of Dallas with the first on 5 May at Upper Mississippi River NWR, Green Island Jackson (CRE).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 1 on 7 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE). Most: 75 on 21 May at Fox Hills WA Wapello (CRE). Last: 1 on 28 May at Riverview Cemetery Kossuth (MCK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First on 25 Apr at Waterworks P Polk (JB) and last on



Cape May Warbler, Wolf Creek Rec Area, Grundy, 18 May 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

19 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO). A report of 20 on 10 May at Dolliver SP Webster (TNJ) was the high for this spring.

Nashville Warbler: First on 26 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (JB). A peak of 40 was reported 10 May at Lake Macbride SP Johnson (CRE) and 12 May at Wiese Sl Muscatine (CRE). The last was on 24 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP).

Connecticut Warbler: Reported in 6 counties in May with the first on 7 May at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (TGS), the second earliest record of this species. The last was seen on 24 May at Aldo Leopold WA Bremer (TGS).

Mourning Warbler: First migrant reported 8 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE). Reported in 10 additional counties with the last on 28 May at Union Grove SP Tama (MP).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 1 on 2 May at the Lucas Unit of Stephens SF Lucas (DTh). Most: 7 on 21 May at Fox Hills WA Wapello (CRE). Last: 1 on 25 May at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF Lee (CRE).



Northern Parula, Sutliff, Johnson, 19 April 2014. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

Common Yellowthroat: First migrant arrived on schedule on 27 Apr at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res Polk (RLC). Reported in 7 additional counties in May.

Hooded Warbler: All: 1 on 6 May at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF Lee (JWR), 1 on 12 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP), 1 on 15 May at Pammel Woods Story (TMH), and 3 on 25 May at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF Lee (CRE).

American Redstart: First on 5 May at Pine Valley NA Jackson (CRE) with a high count of 53 on 10 May at Saylorville Res Polk (AB).

Cape May Warbler: This species was seen more frequently this spring than past years. Reports of 1-4 in 14 counties with the first on 7 May at the Saylorville Visitor Center Polk (RLC) and last on 24 May at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP).

Cerulean Warbler: Reported in 6



Magnolia Warbler, Mallard M, Cerro Gordo, 22 May 2014. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Wilson's Warbler, Saylorville Res, Polk, 20 May 2014. Photograph by John Bissell, Grimes, IA.

counties east of *Boone* with the first on 9 May at Brinton Timber *Washington* (CRE).

Northern Parula: First: 1 on 20 Apr in *Johnson* (MHB). Reported in 13 additional counties with the westernmost report on 29 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (GLV).

Magnolia Warbler: Migrants first arrived on 5 May at several locations across Iowa including Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), Cottonwood RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), Soper's Mill *Story* (TMH), and ISU campus *Story* (TMH). A report of 8 on 17 May at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE) was the high for this spring.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Reported in 10 counties with the first on 5 May at Pammel Woods *Story* (TMH) and last on 24 May at Diamond L *Dickinson* (MHB).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 1 on 7 May at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). Reported in 11 additional counties with the high of 6 on 14 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (SJD, TMH) and last on 24 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Yellow Warbler: First migrant arrived 23 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS-details) tying the third earliest report of this species in Iowa. The peak of 20 was reported on 11 May at Bradgate WA *Humboldt* (ABL).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 1 at Pammel Woods *Story* (TMH) and 2 in *Johnson* (CRE), both on 5 May. Most: 10 on 8 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE). Last: 2 on 24 May at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Blackpoll Warbler: First migrant arrived on 8 May at Pammel Woods *Story* (TMH) with a peak of 7 on 9 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH). Last: 2 on 18 May at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A single male on 13 May in Decorah *Winneshiek* (Marion Jefferson fide DeC) was the only report.

Palm Warbler: First on 20 Apr at Ciha Fen Preserve *Johnson* (MHB) and last on 18



Wood Ducks, Swan Lake P, Carroll, 26 April 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Western Grebe, Swan Lake P, Carroll, 29 May 2014. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Broad-winged Hawk, Jester P, Polk, 20 May 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



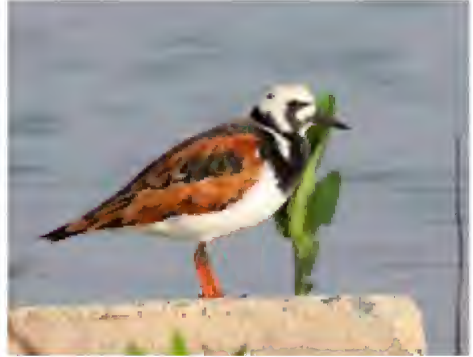
Northern Goshawk, Johnson, 24 March 2014. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.



*American Avocets,
Dunbar Slough,
Greene, 22 April
2014. Photograph by
Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Spotted Sandpiper, Boone, 18 May 2014.
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Ruddy Turnstone, Saylorville Res, Polk, 20
May 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dins-
more, Ames, IA.*

*Black-legged Kit-
tiwake, Red Rock
Res, Marion, 17 May
2014. Photograph by
Reid Allen, West Des
Moines, IA.*





Black Terns, Dunbar Slough, Greene, 14 May 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



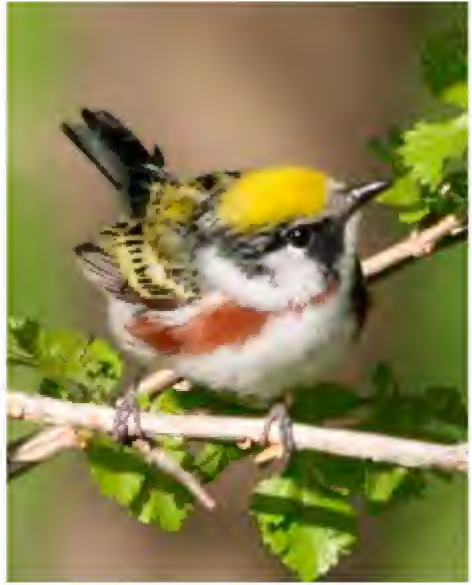
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Terry Trueblood Rec Area, Johnson, 18 April 2014. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Blackburnian Warbler, Terry Trueblood Rec Area, Johnson, 10 May 2014. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Yellow Warbler, Swan Lake P, Carroll, 14 May 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 17 May 2014. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Indigo Bunting, Polk, 19 May 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



Bobolink, Riverton WA, Fremont, 16 May 2014. Photograph by John Bissell, Grimes, IA.



Lark Sparrow, Middle River Forest, Adair, 9 May 2014. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Dark-eyed Junco, Dallas, 29 March 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). A report of 30 on 5 May at Upper Mississippi NWR, Green Island *Jackson* (CRE) was the high this spring.

Pine Warbler: Reported in 4 counties east of *Polk* with the first on 22 Apr at Wil-lowlglen Nursery *Winneshiak* (LZL-photo) and last on 25 May at the Farmington Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE), a regular location for this species.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 2 on 15 Mar in *Muscatine* (KMc). Most: 64 on 10 May at the St. Ansgar Sewage Ponds *Mitchell* (PH) and 57 on 4 May at Yellow Banks County Park *Polk* (JHW). Last: 1 on 28 May in *Algona Kossuth* (MCK).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reported in 8 counties east of *Polk* with the first on 21 Apr at Cottonwood RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) and last on 25 May at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First migrant arrived on 29 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE). The peak of 6 was reported 10 May in Chris Edward's yard *Johnson* and on 14 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (TMH). The last 2 left from Beam Woods *Jones* on 17 May (CRE).

Canada Warbler: First: 1 on 11 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Reports of 1-2

from 8 additional counties with the last on 22 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 3 on 5 May at Pammel Woods *Story* (TMH). Most: 4 on 20 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE). Last: 3 on 22 May at Union Grove SP *Tama* (MP).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 7 May in *Liscomb Marshall* (MP), high of 7 on 21 May at Lake Sugema *Van Buren* (CRE), and last on 25 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE).

Spotted Towhee: A single report on 18 May at Lewis & Clark SP *Monona* (JG).

Eastern Towhee: First arrived on 5 Apr at Clear Creek *Johnson* (MHB) and 8 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). A report of 20 on 2 May at the Lucas Unit of Stephens SF *Lucas* (DTh).

American Tree Sparrow: Last birds were seen on 25 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and 4 May at Freda Haffner Kettlehole State Preserve *Dickinson* (LAS).

Chipping Sparrow: First: 3 on 8 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 18 on 24 Apr at Oak Grove Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Last: 3 on 17 May in *Poweshiek* (WWH).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First on 22 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (TMH, WO).

This species continues to be more abundant in spring with high count of 28 on 27 Apr at the Outflow Area, Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). A territorial male observed 31 May at Lower Morse L *Wright* was the last bird observed this spring.

Field Sparrow: First: 1 on 31 Mar in *Dallas* (KG).

Vesper Sparrow: Reported in only 5 counties with the first on 1 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Lark Sparrow: First migrants arrived 11 Apr in Mystic *Appanoose* (TNJ) and at Otter Creek M *Tama* (DCH). A high count of 4 was reported on 26 Apr in *Monona* (AB) and on 27 Apr at Sandpiper RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Savannah Sparrow: First was reported on 15 Mar in *Des Moines* (KMc).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Reported in 5 counties with the first on 25 Apr at Turkey Ridge WA *Clarke* (POR).

Henslow's Sparrow: More reports than last year with the first near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP) and at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB), both on 26 Apr. Reported in 6 additional counties.

Le Conte's Sparrow: A single bird on 25 May at Lylah's M *Howard* (PH) was the only report.

Nelson's Sparrow: No reports.

Fox Sparrow: First migrants arrived on 7 Mar at Polk City WA *Polk* (RLC) with a peak of 102 on 1 Apr at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZL) and 92 on 6 Apr at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK). The last bird was observed 26 Apr at Cedar R *Mitchell* (PH).

Song Sparrow: First birds arrived 14 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Reports of 1-2 birds in 10 counties with the first on 10 Apr in Johnston *Polk* (DTh) and last on 23 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Swamp Sparrow: First: 1 on 6 Apr at

Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 10 on 1 May at Errington M *Polk* (RLC).

White-throated Sparrow: First migrants arrived 18 Mar at Diamond L *Poweshiek* (MP) and 20 Mar at Upper Mississippi R, Green Island *Jackson* (KMc). High counts included 26 at Oak Grove Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and 25 in Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABI), both on 24 Apr. Last bird was observed 28 May near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 1 on 2 Mar at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZL). Most: 12 on 1 May in *Dallas* (KG). Last: 1 on 17 May in *Poweshiek* (WWH).

White-crowned Sparrow: First migrants on 25 Apr in Liscomb *Marshall* (MP) and last on 18 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Dark-eyed Junco: The last overwintering birds left 6 May at Lake Meyer County Park *Winneshiek* (LR). Reports of 65 on 20 Mar in *Jackson* and 52 on 15 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (KMc) and on 1 Apr at Jester P, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Summer Tanager: Reported in 12 counties with the first on 1 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (Neil Bernstein fide SJD) and on 8 May in Kelley *Story* (KDW).

Scarlet Tanager: First reported on 2 May at Gibson RA *Henry* (CRE) with the westernmost report on 25 May at Gull Point SP *Dickinson* (MHB).

WESTERN TANAGER: Two reports this spring: 1 on 24 Apr in *Winnebago* (*Emily Daggett-photos) and 1 on 2 May in *Dickinson* (*ET-photo).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First arrivals in Ames *Story* (WO) and in Grimes *Polk* (JB), both on 28 Apr.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: A single bird spent a day from 9-10 May in Lee Schoenewe's backyard in Spencer *Clay* (*LAS-photo).

Blue Grosbeak: Reported in 4 coun-

ties with the first on 7 May in *Dickinson* (ET).

LAZULI BUNTING: Three reports this spring: 1 on 18 May at the Silver Sioux RA *Cherokee* (*JG-photos), 1 on 21-23 May at Curt Nelson's farm *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, CJF, RIA/PHA, *PH-photo, *Brandon Caswell-photo), and 1 from 21-23 May in Ed Thelen's yard *Dickinson* (*ET-photo).

Indigo Bunting: First on 2 May at Oakland Hills County Park *Henry* (CRE) and on 5 May at Soper's Mill *Story* (TMH).

PAINTED BUNTING: A single male visited a yard in *Madison* from 5-6 May (*James Johnson-photos).

Dickcissel: First birds arrived 25 Apr in *Clarke* (POR) and on 3 May at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB).

Bobolink: First migrant arrived on 29 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). A report of 67 on 11 May in *Fremont* (KDy) was a high count this spring.

Eastern Meadowlark: First on 14 Mar in Fort Madison *Lee* (RLC). Westernmost reports included 1 on 30 Mar at Kindlespire P *Clay* (LAS) and 1 appearing to be nesting on 11 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV).

Western Meadowlark: First on 18 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC), which was also the easternmost report.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reported in 11 counties with the first on 9 Apr at the Inwood SL *Lyon* (POR).

Rusty Blackbird: First 12 migrants arrived 15 Mar at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG) with a peak of 105 on 29 Mar at Ocheyedan WA *Clay* (LAS) and 75 on 28 Mar near Fraser *Boone* (DCH). Last 6 reported 18 Apr at Errington M *Polk* (RLC).

Brewer's Blackbird: Reported in 8 counties with the first on 7 Apr at Errington M *Polk* (DTh) and last on 25 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). A report of 40 on

14 Apr in *Johnson* (JF) was the high count this spring.

Great-tailed Grackle: Reported in 9 counties with the first on 5 Apr in Baxter *Jasper* (WWH). Northernmost reports included 2 on 17 May at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* (TGS) and 2 on 31 May at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: First: 11 on 16 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 31 on 20 Mar in *Jackson* (KMc).

Orchard Oriole: First: 2 on 6 May at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiekie* (LZL). Reported in 12 additional counties.

HOODED ORIOLE: A single male visited a feeder in Ames *Story* from 9-10 May (*Christy Eischeid-photo).

Baltimore Oriole: First on 26 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) with a high count of 10 on 6 May in Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABL) and on 18 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH).

Purple Finch: Reported in 6 counties with the last on 26 Apr at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Red Crossbill: No reports.

Common Redpoll: No reports.

Pine Siskin: Only 4 reports: 1 on 3 Mar at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (DTh), 2 on 31 Mar at Cardinal M *Winneshiekie* (LR), 1 on 5 Apr in *Johnson* (JLF), and 1 on 6 May in *Dickinson* (ET).

American Goldfinch: High count of 20 on 9 Apr in Humboldt *Humboldt* (ABL) and on 3 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH).

BRAMBLING: A single bird visited feeders on 5 May in *Clay* (*Judy Bang-photos).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported in 6 counties in eastern Iowa with the first on 14 Mar along the Sullivan Slough Road Des *Moines* (RLC). Northernmost report on 20 Mar in *Clinton* (KMc).

COMMENT

As always, I appreciate the dedication of Iowa's birders in contributing to the study of bird trends in Iowa. My sincere thanks to those listed below who took the time to submit reports for the spring season.

CONTRIBUTORS

Reid/Pam Allen	RIA/ PHA	W Des Moines	Jeffrey Livingston	JRL	Shannon City
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Jacob Gilliam	JG	Norwalk	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
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Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames	Walt Wagner-Hecht	WWH	Cedar Rapids
Douglas Harr	DCH	Ogden	Phil Walsh	PJW	Des Moines
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Report of the Records Committee for 2013

Ann M. Johnson

One new species, Glaucous-winged Gull, was added to the state list in 2013. The circumstances surrounding this addition provided an objective lesson in the value of good photos as it was ultimately identified from photos shared on-line. Although both have become a regularly observed species during spring and fall migration, Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet were added to the list of species nesting in the state [Dinsmore and Schoenewe 2013; Caswell and Dinsmore 2014].

A total of 46 records was reviewed during the year including four from previous years. Many other documentations were reviewed by the seasonal field reports editors for supporting evidence of reported observations. The committee thanks everyone for timely submission of reports so that our publications offer the most current information available. Appreciation is also extended to all who enter their reports on-line. This is creating an extensive database of rarity reports that should be helpful to researchers.

Committee members for 2013 with years in which their terms expire were: Ross Silcock (2013), Chris Edwards (2014), Aaron Brees (2015), Matthew Keene (2016), Jay Gilliam (2017), Paul Hertzell (2018) and Ann Johnson (secretary, appointed by the committee). Bill Scheible was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2014 to replace Ross Silcock whose term expired at the end of the year.

Status changes to the Iowa checklist are based on the number of reports during the previous ten years. The following status changes were approved by the committee through email voting in October 2013:

From Casual to Accidental – Brant and Clark's Grebe. Both of these species are seldom seen in the state and are probably more accurately described as accidental.

From Casual to Regular – White-winged Crossbill. The irruptive nature of winter finches makes classifying them difficult. During winter irruptions this species is not particularly difficult to find in habitat and its appearance in the state is closely tied to northern cone crops.

The digitizing of all old records (pre-2000) and making them available on the Web is on hold with a goal to eventually get this project completed.

Each record reviewed by the Records Committee is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number) which is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are sub-classified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An * indicates a previously uncited documentation.

In the past, a separate photo file was maintained by the Records Committee. With the proliferation of digital images being submitted, as well as documentations having unique identification numbers, these photos are now being archived as a part of the documentation and are not assigned a separate number. The classification in the entries below will indicate the presence of an identifiable photo with the record.

A number of significant records that would add to our knowledge of Iowa birds are unfortunately missed each year. We encourage all Iowa birders to be familiar with review list species and extraordinary early and late dates. These lists are easily accessible on our website. Good photos should at least have some minimal details entered to identify who, what, when and where. Oftentimes a snapshot or recording picked up on a smartphone may provide just enough corroboration for acceptance. Written documentations are more difficult to evaluate and, as a lower level of evidence, require more detail and logic to be accepted for use by future researchers. The committee relies on the observer to paint a picture with words of what was seen and how it was identified. This is seldom available from listserv posts or brief details submitted with seasonal field reports. A few documented details on size and structure, along with a description of what was seen and consideration of any similar species, can make all the difference between an accepted and not accepted report. The committee can only evaluate the evidence that is submitted. **The committee's purpose is not to pass judgment on the validity of a particular sighting or the birding skills of a reporter but rather on the evidence provided.**

2013 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Neotropic Cormorant: 13 May at Saylorville Res. in *Polk* (2013-29, **A-D**, IBL 83:98) and 12 Oct near Comanche in *Clin-ton* (2013-31, **A-D**, IBL 84:22).

Glossy Ibis: 3-5 May at Hawkeye WA in *Johnson* (2013-12, **A-P**, IBL 83:98).

Ferruginous Hawk: 24 Oct at Hitchcock NA in *Pottawattamie* (2013-32, **A-D**, IBL 84:24, 46-47) and 24 Oct at Hitchcock NA in *Pottawattamie* (2013-38, **A-D**, IBL 84:24, 46-47).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: 10-12 Nov at Otter Creek M. in *Tama* (2013-34, **A-P**, IBL 84:27).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. in *Polk* (2013-33, **A-D**, IBL 84:30).

Little Gull: 16 Nov-3 Dec at Red Rock Res. in *Marion* (2013-35, **A-P**, IBL 84:30; 68).

Ross's Gull: 1-7 Dec at Red Rock Res. in *Marion* (2013-41, **A-P**, IBL 84: 68).

Iceland Gull: 26 Jan at Davenport in *Scott* (2013-04, **A-P**, IBL 83:57).

Glaucous-winged Gull: 7 Dec at Davenport in *Scott* (2013-40, **A-P**, IBL 84: 68 [Stone 2014]).

Great Black-backed Gull: 6 Jan at Davenport in *Scott* (2013-02, **A-P**, IBL 83:57).

Rufous Hummingbird: 18 Oct-15 Nov at Bettendorf in *Scott* (2013-39, **A-P**, IBL 84:28, 32) and 14 Nov at Cedar Rapids in *Linn* (2013-42, **A-S**, IBL 84:32).

Say's Phoebe: 4 May at Sweet Marsh WA in *Bremer* (2013-13, **A-P**, IBL 83:107 and 9-10 May at Ada Hayden Heritage Park in *Story* (2013-15, **A-P**, IBL 83:107).

Rock Wren: 10-18 May at rural Boone in *Boone* (2013-17, **A-P**, IBL 83:109)

Bewick's Wren: 21 Apr -1 May at rural Davis City in *Decatur* (2013-11, **A-P**, IBL 83:109, 83(3) cover).

Mountain Bluebird: 9-10 Mar at Maffitt Res. In *Polk* (2013-09, **A-P**, IBL 83:110).

Sprague's Pipit: 22 Apr at Errington M. in *Polk* (2013-10, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:111).

Prairie Warbler: 4-22 Jun at Shimek SF in *Lee* (2013-22, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:153) and 15 Jun at Eldon WA in *Davis* (2013-24, **A-D**, *IBL* 83:153).

Lazuli Bunting: 10 May at Carroll in *Carroll* (2013-16, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:120) and 18 May at Hartley in *O'Brien* (2013-21, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:120).

Painted Bunting: 9-10 May at Shenandoah in *Page* (2013-14, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:120).

Western Tanager: 9-11 May at Mason City in *Cerro Gordo* (2013-18, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:120) and 12 May at Spencer in *Clay* (2013-28, **A-D**, *IBL* 83:120).

White-winged Crossbill: 7 Jan at Onawa in *Monona* (2013-03, **A-P**, *Jolene Orr) and 18 Feb at Des Moines in *Polk* (2013-08, **A-D**, *Mary Helen Grace).

Hoary Redpoll: 4-5 Jan n. of Decorah in *Winneshiek* (2013-01, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:62); 26 Jan at Red Rock Res. in *Marion* (2013-05, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:62); 26 Jan at Red Rock Res. in *Marion* (2013-06, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:62); 16 Feb near Mason City in *Cerro Gordo* (2013-07, **A-P**, *IBL* 83:62); 10 Mar at Saylorville Res. in *Polk* (2013-25, **A-D**, *IBL* 83:121); 13 Mar s. of Belmond in *Wright* (2013-26, **A-D**, *IBL* 83:121); 21 Mar se. of Riceville in *Howard* (2013-27, **A-D**, *IBL* 83:121).

OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR FIRST TIME

King Rail: 15 Jul 2005 at Sycamore Bottoms in *Johnson* (2013-AA, **A-P**, *James Forde).

Neotropic Cormorant: 27 Jun 2012 at Pool 13 in *Clinton* (2013-AB, **A-P**, *Stephen J. Dinsmore)

2013 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck: Although the identification was clearly cor-

rect, because of the bird's close association with domestic Mallards there was a question of provenance (2013-30, *IBL* 84:18).

Glossy Ibis: The photo provided was clearly a White-faced Ibis (2013-20).

Mew Gull: Although most committee members thought this bird could very well have been identified correctly, unfavorable viewing conditions precluded observation of some critical field marks and could not totally eliminate a small Ring-billed Gull (2013-36).

Mountain Chickadee: Interesting photos showed a bird that looked superficially like this species but the extent of buff on the flanks and white in the wings showed it to be an aberrant Black-capped Chickadee (2013-37).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: This bird was documented as an "Audubon's" with an accompanying photo. The consensus was that the bird was most likely an intergrade with characteristics of both "Audubon's" and "Myrtle" (2013-23).

Bullock's Oriole: A brief view provided some details suggestive of this species but with some critical pieces to the description missing there was room for doubt (2013-19).

OLD RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

White-crowned Sparrow: A 2012 report from early August was initially reported without details. Documentation was eventually provided from memory a year later. The committee was split on the value of such reports for evidence and encourages observers to at least take a few field notes on unusual sightings for future reference. (2013-AC)

Evening Grosbeak: This was another 2012 report which was not immediately documented and the details became fuzzier with time. Unfortunately the photo which

would have provided some tangible evidence was lost. Because of the delay in reporting the committee took a conservative stance. (2013-AD, *IBL* 83:62)

LITERATURE CITED

- Caswell, B., and S. J. Dinsmore 2014. First nesting record for Black-necked Stilt in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 84:50-52.
- Dinsmore, S. J., and L. A. Schoenewe 2013. American Avocet nesting at Trumbull Lake, Clay County. *Iowa Bird Life* 83:156-157.
- Stone, T. 2014. Glaucous-winged Gull in Scott County. *Iowa Bird Life* 84:94-95.

I thank Paul Hertzell for checking all of the inclusive dates against field reports data so that this report is an accurate representation of rare bird sightings in Iowa.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

17 May 2014

The I.O.U. spring business meeting was held at Fontanelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, Nebraska, during a spring meeting in conjunction with the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M. In attendance were Dennis Thompson, vice-president; Stuart Sparkman, secretary; Mary Beth Hunt, treasurer; board members Jay Gilliam, Gerald White, Tyler Harms, Keith Dyche, and Karen Viste-Sparkman, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen called for the minutes to be approved for the 12 October 2013 meeting. No comments were received. Steve Dinsmore moved to approve the minutes. Karen Disbrow seconded. Minutes were approved.

Publication Enhancement Fund (PEF): President Roisen announced that the PEF has been restored and is now operating as intended. Anyone with questions

about details may ask him to elucidate. Details are contained in the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth gave a financial overview including a balance sheet. She compared the first four months of 2013 and 2014, explaining how the irregularities of dues paying and expense billing make such comparisons problematic, and inviting questions from the member-

ship. The organization is financially strong. Detailed information on our finances can be accessed by members through the I.O.U. website.

Membership Coordinator's Report: President Roisen spoke on behalf of Pam Allen.

Membership is down to 379 versus 410 last year. This decline is a significant concern for the board. Members were urged to consult a list to see whether they have forgotten to renew. It is encouraged that members recruit for and publicize our organization individually. Karen Disbrow reminded the body that posters publicizing our group exist and she urged people to distribute them and let her know where they are posted.

Publications Report: Ann Johnson explained how the Publications Enhancement Fund was established years ago in order to pay publications-related bills, which may come due at irregular times from year to year. The first newsletter this year is the first issue that is defaulted to electronic form, as per the change in policy approved by the board last year. The number of hard copies that needed to be printed declined from 250 to 50, a savings of around \$700. *Iowa Bird Life* is running a couple of months behind schedule. The next issue features an article by Tom Kent.

Records Committee: Ross Silcock's term has ended, and he is replaced by Bill Scheible. White-winged Crossbill, Clark's Grebe, and Brant have received status changes. Ann Johnson urged people to keep better notes. The committee struggles with sightings that occur on unusual dates. Better validation can occur if observers provide better records.

Membership Committee: President Roisen reported in place of chair Doug Harr. The committee has placed and staffed I.O.U. traveling display at various community events all over the state. The poster continues to be distributed to a lot of places. Members were urged to take one and report to Karen Disbrow where it is displayed. At-large members can be very helpful in distribution. New hats and water bottles are available, and have been sold at non-I.O.U. events, and I.O.U. representatives have promoted our group at various events such as the annual Environmental Lobby Day at the state capitol. Rick Hollis continues to pursue the "yellow book" idea for new members, which may provide lists, early/late dates, and maps for the use of those new to birding in Iowa.

Projects Committee: Tyler Harms offered a report. The committee had \$4,420 to give.

Nineteen applications were received, requesting a total of \$17,450. Projects fell into the categories of research, education, outreach activities, and habitat. The committee decided to fully fund three of these and partially fund another nine. The fully funded projects were John Stravers' Effigy Mounds work with Cerulean Warblers and Red-shouldered Hawks, Iowa Young Birders expenses, and Allamakee County Conservation Board's Falcon River Trip. They developed a set of guidelines for funded groups to submit a report on how the money was spent. These can be articles fit for I.O.U. publications. The current ones are published and viewable on the I.O.U. website. The committee thanked Bill Scheible for his work on the year list drive, as well as those who contributed to the drive, and an anonymous donor of \$1,000. Bruce Ehresman was thanked for his work on the

committee. John McCecil was approved by the board for a 4-year term as his replacement.

Library/Historical: President Roisen spoke on behalf of Hank Zaletel. This committee is seeking new members. Interested persons should contact Hank. This committee administers the I.O.U. archive, located in the Special Collections Department at the I.S.U. library. Specific information on how to view these archive materials can be found on our website.

Fall 2014 Meeting: The Fall 2014 Meeting will take place in Ankeny on 22-24 August. John Vanderpoel, whose 2011 big year attempt was well-publicized, will be the speaker. Des Moines Audubon Society will host, with support from Big Bluestem Audubon. The plans for the Spring 2015 meeting to be held in Algona are coming along nicely. This event will be held the third weekend in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections: President Roisen began the elections process by recognizing the excellent work of the Nominating Committee: Mark Proeschelt, Sharon Stillwell, and Doug Harr. Jay Gilliam is leaving the Board of Directors after serving out his term. The slate of nominees was offered as follows:

- Secretary: Stuart Sparkman, second term
- Treasurer: Mary Beth Hunt, second term
- Board of Directors: Tyler Harms, first full term; Candace Havely, first term.

The president opened the floor for nominations and none were received. Steve

Dinsmore moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. Rick Hollis seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements: The president announced that he has appointed an ad hoc committee chaired by Walt Stephenson to look into the establishment of bird feeders at care centers for the elderly. A thank you letter was received from Carl Bendorf of the Iowa Young Birders Organization, which has received some financial support from our organization. The Board of Directors has decided there would be no dues increase for 2015.

Communications: I.O.U. continues to look into the best use of Twitter and Facebook for the purpose of communication between members. Anyone with opinions or ideas about this issue is welcome to discuss this with Gerald White. A question was asked about reaching the limit of listserv users; we still have 29 available slots. If we have to bump up to the next level the cost is minimal.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Steve Dinsmore reported that the committee has been hard at work and is in the final stages. There has been some discussion about self-publishing the results, which has positive and negative aspects.

A motion was made to adjourn by Steve Dinsmore. Rick Hollis seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Board of Directors Meeting

17 May 2014

The I.O.U. spring board meeting was held at Fontanelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, Nebraska, during a spring meeting in conjunction with the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 12:31 P.M. Attending were directors Dennis Thompson, Gerald White, Karen Viste-Sparkman, Keith Dyche, Jay Gilliam, Stuart Sparkman, Mary Beth Hunt and Tyler Harms. Also in attendance was Ann Johnson.

Welcome: President Roisen welcomed the attendees and thanked Jay Gilliam for his service to the board, as his term of office is ending and this is his last meeting.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen called for the minutes to be approved for the 12 October 2013 Board of Directors meeting. No additions or corrections to the previous minutes were offered. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Dues are actually up, but it was determined that because of a timing issue without explanation it may appear that dues have diminished. Because many members paid membership in Jan. Because of this, it may appear that dues are down quite a bit at this time. Mary Beth suggested that we could put all the dues money in January for uniformity of budget numbers. President Roisen pointed out that we couldn't hold dues funds paid through PayPal, and felt that we can maintain the same accounting method since we can just look at membership rolls to see where we stand. Jay suggested we could simply request new dues (send renewal letters out) in January instead of December. This suggestion was tabled until next meeting. Donations are down \$770 compared to last year. Publica-

tions expenses have the same problem as dues, in that we are billed at irregular intervals. I.O.U. has two checking accounts, one of which will be closed once the checks for this account are nearly exhausted. Our restricted equity is around \$42,000. As always, members are able to access detailed financial information for our organization on the website.

Publications: The following motion was put before the Board of Directors on December 16, 2013:

Request to reinstate the Publications Enhancement Fund with a starting 2013 amount of \$5233.00 and that we use the following formula to keep the PEF on track: Beginning PEF plus Revenues Received Designated to Publications minus Paid Expenditures.

This motion passed with eight in favor and one abstaining.

Membership Coordinator's Report: President Roisen spoke on behalf of chair Pam Allen. Our membership has declined over the last year. He feels that board members and at-large members as well should recruit, and everyone should follow up on membership care to keep new members in-

terested and less likely to let membership lapse.

Tyler suggested we should ask other state organizations what they do to maintain membership. We currently have 379 enrolled versus 410 at the end of 2013.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Maintenance: This has generated much discussion, but no progress being made on increasing membership. Tyler suggested we investigate what other state organizations do. President Roisen remarked that this and many other things have been talked about within the membership committee, but the group has not yet accomplished its goals. Ann asked what we have to offer potential members, for example students at University of Iowa or Iowa State University. President Roisen believes we need to be actively looking for members. Gerald thinks mentoring may be helpful in retaining newer members. It was suggested that if I.O.U. held workshops around the state, this may attract people who are potential members. Mary Beth suggested I.O.U. could plan events in conjunction with county conservation boards and Tyler suggested regional field trips as a possibility. It was remarked that we should set a goal for how many members we think we want. President Roisen decided to move on and table the subject for now.

Officer Transition: Ann remarked that an e-mail account has been created in Gmail for the treasurer, and this account can follow the office as new treasurers take over. In general we need a procedure to access organizational information which doesn't depend on the well-being of any particular individual. Ann and Mary Beth will continue preparing for future transitions.

Previous Meeting: Dennis reported

that the Fall 2013 meeting in the Clinton area lost a mere \$79. He was pleased to report that there were 90 attendees and 143 species were detected. On the Spring 2014 meeting we should easily come out ahead. Our speaker, Dan Svingen, will not be an expense.

Digital Presence: Gerald has been working on this issue. Twitter is a real-time communication for mobile applications. It should supplement whatever communications we ultimately use. He thinks Twitter can be useful to us, and it interfaces well with Facebook. Ann said there is an existing I.O.U. Twitter account. Figuring out the best way to use it has been difficult. Our Facebook page is hard to use for conversations, as it was set up to advertise our organization. A Facebook group could be useful, if someone was interested in being the monitor. The board will continue discussions on this matter at future meetings.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Steve Dinsmore will give a presentation on Iowa B.B.A. 2 at today's general meeting.

Committees: Tyler moved that John McCecil be appointed to a 4-year term on the Projects Committee, replacing Bruce Ehresman. Dennis seconded and the motion carried. An ad hoc committee, headed by Walt Stephenson, has been formed to look into supporting the establishment of bird feeders at elder care facilities.

All committee reports will be given at business meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections: President Roisen announced on behalf of the nominating committee. The plan is to elect the slate by ac-

clamation, if no comments or objections are heard from the body. The slate is as follows:

- Secretary: Stuart Sparkman, second term
- Treasurer: Mary Beth Hunt, second term
- Board of Directors: Tyler Harms, first full term; Candace Havely, first term.

Dues: A motion was made by Jay and seconded by Mary Beth to keep the same annual dues for the next year. Motion carried.

Correspondence: A thank you was received from Iowa Young Birders for a recent \$250 contribution to their group by our organization.

Fall Meeting: The Fall 2014 meeting will take place in Ankeny on 22-24 August. Des Moines Audubon Society will host, with support from Big Bluestem Audubon. Mary Beth moved that the next Board of Directors meeting take place Friday night (22 August) rather than the following afternoon. Keith seconded and the motion carried. The plans for the Spring 2015 meeting to be held in Algona are coming along nicely. This event will be held the third weekend in May.

The board of directors meeting was adjourned 1:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

22 August 2014

The I.O.U. fall business meeting was held at Best Western Metro North Hotel in Ankeny, Iowa. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M. In attendance were Dennis Thompson, vice-president; Stuart Sparkman, secretary; Mary Beth Hunt, treasurer; board members Candace Havely, Gerald White, Tyler Harms, Keith Dyché, and Karen Viste-Sparkman, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen asked to dispense with the reading of the minutes by the secretary. The body assented. Hank Zaletel moved the minutes for the Spring 2014 meeting be approved with minor corrections. Doug Harr seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth pre-

sented a report on the financial health of the organization. Dues income is up about \$3,225 over the same time last year. Issues with the irregularity of the timing of renewals make it hard to compare this figure from year to year. The financial reports show that publications expenses are lower than last year, but updates from Ann Johnson show us to be

within a couple hundred dollars of last year for *Iowa Bird Life*. Expenses for *IOU News* have been around \$100 per issue this year as opposed to about \$1100 previously. The savings is due to our decision to make electronic copies the default. We are doing well in terms of publication costs. I.O.U. still has two checking accounts. One is earning a better yield than a CD and offers better liquidity, so most of our assets are deposited there. The other account will be retired when existing checks on that account are exhausted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Meetings: Vice President Dennis Thompson reported that the joint meeting with Nebraska Ornithologists Union at Bellevue, Nebraska in May 2014 was a great success and yielded a profit for the organization. The I.O.U. Spring 2015 meeting will be held in the Algona area on the third weekend in May.

Library/Historical Committee: Hank Zaletel reported that he had visited the Special Collection at Iowa State University to deposit more records of the I.O.U. into the archive.

Membership Coordinator's Report: President Roisen presented on behalf of chair Pam Allen. Data on new members and membership trends were displayed. Ten percent of the members we had last year have failed to renew. There are 17 new members registered for this Fall meeting, and he offered a warm welcome to these first-time attenders.

Publications Committee: No report was offered. President Roisen briefly noted the decrease in cost to the organization due to delivering *IOU News* in electronic form.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr, chair, mentioned the "yellow book" project that Rick Hollis has been working on. The product is intended to be a convenient informal guide to assist people new to birding in Iowa. He asked for direction from the board in continuing to pursue the project before Rick continues his work. He also remarked that there were issues related to storing and moving the display cases. Extra Large sized shirts with I.O.U. logo have sold out. The committee reminds the members to take I.O.U. posters when they leave the meeting and put them up at appropriate venues, then report back to the committee where they are being displayed. The committee recommends the updating and printing of a revised version on the Iowa checklist, as revision is now needed and the current supply of checklists will be exhausted before long. The board of directors has approved the continued service of Doug Harr and Karen Disbrow on the membership committee through 2019.

Digital Presence: Gerald White reported on what has been set up through social media. I.O.U. now has a Twitter account. It is to be used in reporting accidental and casually occurring birds, as well as late/early occurrences. This is a tool which allows swift communication from the field, allowing followers a rapid response to bird alerts. There is a flyer to explain its use, and the same information is available from iowabirds.org.

Membership Maintenance: President Roisen asked the membership for ideas on growing and maintaining our membership. We had approximately 10% of our existing members choose not to renew this year. We would like to avoid losing more members. He requested that people engage board

members with their ideas on this issue. Maria Rundquist remarked that the most successful strategy in this situation is a face-to-face invitation, and encouraged members to make this type of recruiting a common practice. Karen Disbrow mentioned the importance of reaching out to younger generations.

Sponsored Group: Carl Bendorf made a brief report on Iowa Young Birders. In this group's 2-year existence it has held 29 field trips that had a total of 503 participants. The focus has been on involving birders of ages 8-18, although most are under 12 years old. Many reported that their IYB experience was their first organized field trip. In a post-trip survey, about 75% reported a positive change in awareness about birds. I.O.U. has sponsored some of these field trips, and Carl thanked the organization for its monetary support.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit: Francis Moore and Tom Schilke have again agreed to do the annual internal audit of IOU financial books.

Budget Meeting: The Board of Direc-

tors will schedule another budget meeting this November in Oskaloosa. Members at large are welcome to attend. Bob Cecil remarked that I.O.U. receives certain very valuable services from its members for free or for very little cost. He reminded the group that in less fortunate circumstances we would be paying regularly for such services, and urged us not to assume this would continue forever.

Vendor: Larry Stone brought a great number of books and nature related items to offer for sale at the meeting. President Roisen urged members to spend some time looking over Larry's collection. Members were also encouraged to participate in the "Silent Auction" administered by John McCecil as a fundraiser for publications.

A motion was made to adjourn by Hank Zaletel. A second was heard from Steve Dinsmore. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

22 August 2014

The I.O.U. fall board meeting was held at Best Western Metro North Hotel in Ankeny, Iowa. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. Attending were directors Dennis Thompson, Gerald White, Karen Viste-Sparkman, Keith Dyche, Candace Havelly, Stuart Sparkman, Mary Beth Hunt and Tyler Harms.

Welcome: President Roisen congratulated the directors beginning their new terms and welcomed Candace as she begins her first term on the board. There will be seventeen first-time attendees expected at this fall meeting. Each will be assigned to an I.O.U. member as an informal mentor. Copies of previous minutes were distributed. It was decided to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mary Beth moved to accept the minutes with two small corrections. Tyler seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dues income is up about \$3,225 over the same time last year. Issues with the irregularity of the timing of renewals make it hard to compare this figure from year to year. The financial reports show that publications expenses are behind last year, but updates from Ann Johnson show us to be within a couple hundred dollars of last year for *Iowa Bird Life*. Our expenses for *IOU News* have been around \$100 per issue this year as opposed to about \$1,100 previously. The savings is due to our decision to make electronic copies the default. We are doing well in terms of publication costs. I.O.U. still has two checking accounts. The old account will be used as long as checks still exist. Merchandise sales are in the red at moment, but unsold inventory exists as an asset. President Roisen remarked that donations are about the same this year over last. In the last four years our financial status has pretty much held steady. Mary Beth reminded the group that we still have a \$10,000 obligation to the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Other questions about general health of finances were deferred until the November budget meeting.

Membership Coordinator's Report: President Roisen reported on behalf of chair Pam Allen. We have gained ten new members since the spring meeting. More help and

ideas are needed to keep membership from declining. Board members and general members should continue to recruit. There are sixteen new members this year, although 37 people who were members last year have not renewed. Many of those had only joined for a year, although a few were members for a while. Pam requested the board continue to discuss ways to recruit.

Projects Committee Report: No report submitted.

Publications Committee Report: No report submitted.

Library/Historical Committee Report: No report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership Maintenance: The Membership Committee has not been able to meet some of the goals the board had for attracting and maintaining membership. A lengthy discussion ensued. Some of the points discussed are as follows. Why is actual membership together with sales? Can lapsed members be questioned about why they left? How can we be proactive about finding and recruiting new members? It was suggested we ask the new members attending this weekend why they decided to join in order to get some insight on the issue. This follow up might need to come from the Membership Committee. New members might be asked what they want from the organization. Gerald mentioned the creation of Iowa RBA Twitter account. There are 13 people signed up at this point, and non-members have applied. Should we consider making inquiries to other statewide organizations in other states to see if they have had successful attempts to boost memberships? It was suggested that an ad hoc committee might be necessary to pursue

these ideas. President Roisen and Dennis will visit with committee chair Doug Harr regarding these issues and will report back to the board. Might it be possible to use interns or college students to help with any of these tasks? Could we have a membership drive? Should there be a meeting registration discount for members or new members? When people register on line is there an opportunity on the form for people to join? Tyler suggested we can assist the Membership Committee by better defining the structure of the tasks to be done. President Roisen suggested reviewing membership bylaws to see whether a change in committee structure may be to our advantage.

This agenda item will be addressed once again at the November budget meeting and Doug Harr may possibly attend to assist the board of directors in clarifying how we might best use the Membership Committee to help increase and maintain I.O.U. membership numbers.

Previous Meeting: Dennis reported that the Spring 2014 meeting in the Bellevue, NE area earned our group a profit of about \$1,100 after splitting the proceeds with Nebraska Ornithologists Union. One reason for this is that our speaker provided his services without charge. President Roisen thanked Dennis for all of his hard work in planning and executing the meeting.

Next Meeting: The Spring 2015 meeting of the I.O.U. will be held in the Algona area on the third weekend of May. Dennis has a couple speaker ideas and several other suggestions were offered.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Budget Meeting: The board discussed possible dates for the annual budget meeting.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr

and Karen Disbrow have agreed to serve an additional term to continue through 2019. Stuart moved the board accept this arrangement. Karen seconded. Motion carried.

Field Trips: Tyler made a presentation about the possibility of I.O.U. offering field trips outside of the spring and fall meetings. He has discussed this with Craig Miller of Minnesota Ornithologists Union. Minnesota Birding Weekends has been a very successful undertaking for M.O.U., although it is a separate entity from that group. Most of their trips are weekend trips within the state, although others go all over the United States. This type of trip could be a way to attract new members. It could begin as a small activity, perhaps only a couple a year. The board expressed interest in the idea, and possible benefits and problems were considered. Tyler would be willing to do the work to get a program like this started. The board endorsed the idea and asked Tyler to pursue it.

Financial Audit: Tom Schilke and Francis Moore have volunteered to provide the annual audit of the 2013 I.O.U. financial books.

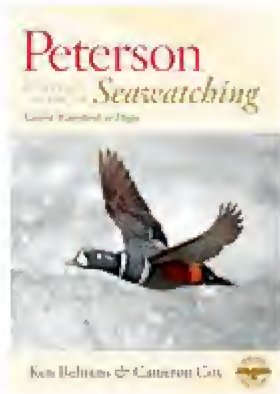
Membership Coordinator Position: Pam Allen wishes to step down from this position in May 2015. This is a position without a term limit. Our bylaws state that the person will serve at the pleasure of the board. It was determined that the board would approach someone they thought would be a good fit for this important position.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stuart Sparkman. Karen Viste-Sparkman seconded, and the motion carried. The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Book Review

James J. Dinsmore



Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight by Ken Behrens and Cameron Cox. 2013. 624 pp., maps, color photographs, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, ISBN 978-0-547-23739-8, \$35.00 (hard cover).

Really, a review of a book on watching seabirds reviewed in *Iowa Bird Life*? Recall that the 1988 book *Hawks in Flight* by Pete Dunne, David Sibley and Clay Sutton changed the way that many birders looked at raptors. Those authors pointed out numerous tips on flight behavior and other subtle field marks that made it possible for birders to identify many raptors in flight that previously had been considered as unidentifiable. This book seems to be an attempt to do

the same for another group of birds.

Seawatching covers 112 species of waterfowl, cormorants, pelicans, grebes, loons, shearwaters, petrels, alcids, gulls, terns, jaegers, and a few others. About a third of those species have never occurred in Iowa and others are rare in the state, but many are common in Iowa. The introductory sections briefly cover a variety of topics on how to use the book and provide some general tips for watching waterbirds. The species accounts comprise most of the book and include numerous photographs, migration dates, and information on size, structure, flight and flocking, appearance, along with a range map showing where and when each species is found in eastern North America. A glossary, a short bibliography, and a where-to-watch section end the book.

The images are the heart of this book. With more than 1,000 color photos, most of them showing birds in flight, they, along with the accompanying captions, provide considerable information on how to identify the various species. Rather than the typical sharp, close-up portraits of a male or a pair used in most books, most of the images in *Seawatching* include groups of birds, and show the birds as we typically see them in the field. These photos are used to point out differences in bill size and shape, flight posture, wing length and width, tail shape and length, and other features that can be useful in identification. The book also provides information on flock composition and shape, features useful in identifying birds at a great distance. Most of the photos are sharp and show various features well but a few, especially some of the more distant views, are less useful and will puzzle readers as to what they should be seeing.

Many of the images show flocks containing two or more species so direct comparisons can be made. In some cases, the different species are obvious and in other cases one or two individuals of another species are somewhat hidden amongst the predominant species in the flock. The authors encourage the reader to find and identify these hidden birds, a useful

teaching tool. Several sets of multi-species images that will probably interest Iowa birders involve ducks and terns. These include several pages of images of mixed-species flocks of ducks including a number of images of Greater and Lesser scaup, two species that continue to confuse many Iowa birders. Several photos provide similar coverage for Forster's and Common terns, another confusing pair. For both species pairs, there are several photos showing both species in the same flock so that size, shape, and other identification features can be compared.

The range maps are generally good although I noted that the American White Pelican colony in Clinton County was not included and the large flocks of Franklin's Gulls that are regular at several of Iowa's reservoirs in fall were ignored. I also was disappointed to see that no photo really showed how easy it is to pick out a few Ross's Geese in a long line of Snow Geese, a size difference that many Iowa birders use to find the former species during migration.

The "where-to-watch" section lists 47 places to go to watch waterbirds, 30 of them on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, a few on the Great Lakes, and the rest scattered west to the Mississippi River. All but one of the sites include information on what species to expect to see, when to visit and, for most, peak counts. The Mississippi River gets only a brief paragraph and the statement that waterbird migration is not well known along the river. This ignores the vast amount of information available on diving ducks and other waterfowl on Pool 19 in southeastern Iowa and for Tundra Swans and other waterfowl on Pool 9 in northeastern Iowa. Likewise, the Davenport and St. Louis areas are becoming well known for the great variety of gulls that they attract. To treat this huge waterway in such a cursory manner is clearly an oversight.

Despite its emphasis on coastal birding, Iowa birders should find something of value in this book. For me, the book provides another reminder that coloration isn't the only characteristic that should be looked at and that knowing more about subtle features such as flight pattern and body, bill, and tail shape can pay great dividends in identifying birds. Also, as a bonus, many of the "portrait" images are superb. Among my favorites are the flock of King Eiders in a snow squall, a diving Northern Gannet stretched out like a long spear, and a head-on view of a Magnificent Frigatebird chasing a Laughing Gull.

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The lead article of the September 1964 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* was about winter habitat use of Red-tailed and Rough-legged hawks. Iowa State University professor Milton Weller collected data on those species north of Ames during the winters of 1958-59 and 1962-63. He found that Red-tailed Hawks tended to be found along the Skunk River and Squaw Creek where there were scattered groves of trees. In contrast, Rough-legged Hawks were found mostly in an area west and northwest of Story City where there were pastures and wet meadow areas suitable for foraging. A sample of pellets collected beneath a Rough-legged Hawk roost contained mostly remains of various mammals.

The field reports for the summer of 1964 included the report of an Arctic Loon in Des Moines. Other reports indicated that Say's Phoebes seemed to be firmly established in the Akron area, Gray Partridge were doing well in northwestern Iowa, and Black-crowned Night-Herons were common nesters at Goose Lake near Jefferson. Reports of Black-billed Cuckoos were mixed with some believing that they were scarce and others found them more common than usual.

Several of the short notes were of interest. Eldon Bryant provided notes on a successful nest of Burrowing Owls that he found near Akron. Ron Huber, a visiting birder from Minnesota, reported on an excursion he and several others made to northwestern Iowa. They saw a Say's Phoebe nest at the Bryant farm, found 10 Lark Buntings near Chatsworth, but failed to find any Blue Grosbeaks. A note by Iowa State graduate students David Strohmeyer and Leigh Fredrickson described two Gadwall nests that they found in the Dewey's Pasture/Smith Slough area of Clay County. Only a few Gadwall nesting records are known for Iowa, the most recent a brood in 1998. A membership list for the I.O.U. completed the issue.

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Former Iowa Bird Life Editors Tom Kent (left) and Jim Dinsmore (right) reunited on 27 August 2014 in Iowa City. The two were the third and fourth editors of Iowa Bird Life, Kent from 1986-1989 and Dinsmore from 1990-1999. The two also wrote the book Birds in Iowa (1996), which remains a major reference on Iowa's birds. Photo by Jim Dinsmore, The Villages, FL.



Greater White-fronted Geese, Dunbar Slough, Greene, 22 April 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



*American Bittern,
Boone, 22 May
2014. Photograph by
Stephen J. Dinsmore,
Ames, IA*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$30, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at cootjr@iastate.edu. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. xx[1]), **April 1 for spring issue** [2], **July 1 for summer issue** [3], **October 1 for fall issue** [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring: 16–18 May 2014, Bellevue, Nebraska (joint meeting with Nebraska Ornithologists' Union).

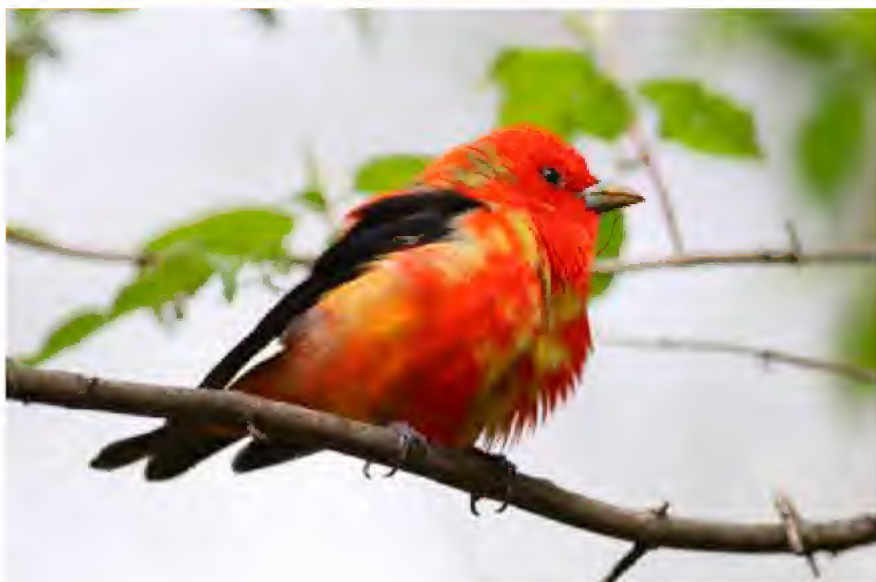
FRONT COVER PHOTO: White-faced Ibis, Colo Ponds, *Story*, 22 May 2014. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Scarlet Tanager, Iowa City, *Johnson*, 15 May 2014. Photograph by Adam Ciha, Hills, IA.

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CONTENTS

Snowy Owls in Iowa, winter 2013-2014 <i>by Paul Hertzel</i>	97
Field Reports—Spring 2014 <i>by Tyler M. Harms</i>	100
Reports of the Records Committee for 2013 <i>by Ann M. Johnson</i>	127
IOU Spring Business Meeting <i>by Stuart Sparkman</i>	130
IOU Spring Board Meeting <i>by Stuart Sparkman</i>	133
IOU Fall Business Meeting <i>by Stuart Sparkman</i>	135
IOU Fall Board Meeting <i>by Stuart Sparkman</i>	137
Book Review: <i>Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight</i> <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	140
Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	142